



# A NATION'S FIGHT FOR SURVIVAL

THE 1941 REVOLUTION AND WAR  
IN YUGOSLAVIA AS REPORTED BY  
THE AMERICAN PRESS



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This volume, the first in a series which will be published on the part played by the Yugoslavs in the joint struggle of the Allies in defense of civilization, deals with the national uprising of March 1941 and the war against the Axis powers. The succeeding volumes will cover the continued struggle of the Yugoslavs as presented to the world by the American press.

In collecting the material, special care has been taken to see that it be as complete as possible, regardless of whether it is favorable or not. Since it is intended, primarily, for historical purposes and for students of history, special care has also been taken to re-publish the material without any changes; even obvious mistakes in geographical names have not been corrected. If any article of interest is missing, it is purely unintentional and due only to the difficult task of collecting the material.

*In the Spring of 1941 the Yugoslav people had to choose between yielding to the Axis or defending themselves in a very desperate situation. That was the cause of the national uprising in Belgrade on March 27, 1941, and the overthrow of the Government which led the nation to the side of the Axis powers. At that time, newspapers throughout the United States printed pages full of the warmest sympathy toward the Yugoslav people.*

*This book contains the reports of American correspondents who covered the development of events in Yugoslavia on the spot. Some of them exhibited a skill and courage which will remain forever an honor to their profession. Another part of the book contains analyses made at that time by well-known American students of international affairs.*

*The whole book will not only be a testimony of the reaction of American public opinion to the free choice of a nation to defend her freedom but will also be, for the Yugoslavs themselves, a record of American sentiment toward them.*

*Grateful appreciation is acknowledged to all newspaper correspondents, news services, newspapers and others for granting permission to reprint the material contained in this volume.*

## **SECTION ONE**

Brief summary of the events in Yugoslavia from February 15 through April 28, 1941, as related in "The International Situation," a daily feature of the *New York Times*.





SATURDAY, Feb 15, 1941—Adolph Hitler met near Salzburg yesterday the Yugoslav Premier and Foreign Minister and talked for three hours on "questions of mutual interest." The Yugoslavs then departed for Belgrade. The official communique issued in Berlin gave no hint as to what was discussed or whether any commitments were asked or made. Diplomatic circles assumed that Herr Hitler asked the Belgrade officials what Yugoslavia's attitude would be if Germany moved southward through Bulgaria, that the question of Yugoslavia's inclusion in the Axis was discussed, and that the subject of territorial concessions to Yugoslavia, in the event she should cooperate with Germany in the "new order," also was possibly explored.

High political and diplomatic quarters in Belgrade, however, said that no pact or agreement was entered into at the meeting and that the chief question discussed was that of Yugoslavia's signature to the Axis alliance. Three other subjects that were taken up, according to these sources, were Yugoslavia's position in the event of a German move toward Greece and Turkey; the question of moving German troops or war materials through Yugoslavia, and the part Yugoslavia might play in supplying Germany with raw materials.

TUESDAY, Feb. 18, 1941—Turkey and Bulgaria announced yesterday that they had signed a declaration of friendship. They thereby further tangled the already puzzling Balkan situation. The joint declaration proclaimed inviolate peace and eternal friendship between the two nations, without, however, affecting their engagements with other countries. It was believed in Sofia that the accord would be followed by a similar pact between Bulgaria and Yugoslavia.

First unofficial reaction in London to this development was that it confounded confusion. The provision expressly asserting that the declaration was made without prejudice to either party's obligations to other countries was scanned with interest, and it was asserted that the British had known in advance that negotiations were going forward. German unofficial circles welcomed the pact, and interpreted it as meaning that Turkey would consent to a Nazi move through Bulgaria toward Greece.

SATURDAY, March 1, 1941—Bulgaria's entry into the Axis was reported by both Berlin and Rome yesterday as virtually settled. Sofia notified the Yugoslav Government that she would formally sign the Axis accord today. Communications from the Bulgarian capital meanwhile were abruptly suspended and diplomatic reports filtering into Belgrade spoke of heavy German troop movements through the Bulgarian capital.

Belief grew that war in the Balkans was inevitable. Both Britain and Germany were seen vying for Yugoslavia's favor. German control of Bulgaria was said to be growing more complete every hour, and reports from Bucharest said that great numbers of German troops were headed south toward the Danube. In Albania, reports stated, large Italian reinforcements had arrived and an Italian offensive was imminent.

SUNDAY, March 2, 1941—Sofia became yesterday the eleventh capital to be occupied by Nazi troops since Reichsfuehrer Hitler came to power. By early afternoon German troop trucks were rolling into the Bulgarian city, German

aircraft were landing by scores at airfields all over Bulgaria and the port of Varna was under Nazi rule. Nowhere was violence or opposition to the German legions reported.

MONDAY, March 3, 1941—German troops poured through Bulgaria yesterday and were reported to have reached four points along the Greek frontier. In Sofia Premier Philoff told Parliament that the German "mission" in Bulgaria was there solely to preserve peace in the Balkans. The British Minister, meanwhile, had a long audience with King Boris.

In announcing the occupation of Bulgaria to the German people the official Nazi radio cited British "plans to extend the war in the Balkans" as the reason for the latest German move.

On the heels of the signing of the Sofia accord the German Minister to Belgrade conferred with the Yugoslav Regent, Prince Paul, and rumors of the impending adherence of Yugoslavia to the Axis were heard. The Bulgarian-Yugoslav frontier was said to have been closed to all traffic early yesterday.

THURSDAY, March 6, 1941—Heavy German motorized units were reported moving through Sofia, with many divisions already massed on the Bulgarian-Greek frontier. As the British Minister terminated British-Bulgarian relations, he warned in blunt and bitter terms that Bulgaria "may suffer" as a result of her entry into the Axis.

Britain was exerting pressure on Yugoslavia, the last remaining neutral Balkan State. The British Minister there flew back to Belgrade after a secret trip to Athens and today will ask Prince Paul, the Regent, just what course his country intends to follow. Diplomatic circles reported that Prince Paul would visit Germany for conversations with German leaders.

FRIDAY, March 7, 1941—In the turbulent Balkans Prince Paul, Regent of Yugoslavia, conferred with his government advisers as it was reported that Germany's demands on Yugoslavia had been handed to the Regent Tuesday and included Yugoslavia's entry into the Axis passage through the country for German troops and close economic ties with the Reich. It was widely reported that Yugoslavia would attempt to steer a middle course.

SUNDAY, March 9, 1941—Germany's growing domination of the Balkans was indicated by reports from Belgrade that Yugoslavia would sign a non-aggression pact with the Reich this week. Regent Prince Paul, it was said, has negotiated a compromise with Reichsfuehrer Hitler by which Yugoslavia will not have to become a member of the Axis, and it was further asserted that special military, economic or political privileges would not be accorded Germany.

The Italian end of the Axis, through its controlled press, seemed to be taking up the German charge that the United States had tried to "intimidate" Yugoslavia into refusing offers of cooperation with the Axis. This action, it was hinted, will be used to bind Yugoslavia ever more closely to the Axis "new order" in Europe.

MONDAY, March 10, 1941—As Belgrade quarters confirmed yesterday that the Yugoslav Premier and Foreign Minister would travel to Berlin, probably tomorrow,

row, to sign a non-aggression pact with Germany, reports circulated that Yugoslavia would also sign an expression of friendship with Soviet Russia. Such an agreement, it was said, would greatly pacify Opposition parties that are opposed to the accord with Germany, in Yugoslavia, and would do much to raise public morale

TUESDAY, March 11, 1941—Signing of the Yugoslav-German non-aggression pact has been deferred until noon Saturday. The postponement gave rise to several theories, one of them being that Berlin was now demanding that Belgrade join the Axis front outright

THURSDAY, March 13, 1941—Well-informed circles in Belgrade reported that the Premier and Foreign Minister of Yugoslavia would sign a pact of non-aggression with the Reich in Vienna Saturday, but it was widely felt that reported German demands for Yugoslavia's entry into the Axis front and also for economic and military concessions would not be met at present

FRIDAY, March 14, 1941—As Regent Prince Paul and Premier Cvetkovitch of Yugoslavia continued prolonged conversations, their government was believed attempting to hold German demands on the nation to a minimum. There were reports from Turkey that German and Italian troops were massed along Yugoslavia's borders

SATURDAY, March 15, 1941—Dispatches from Belgrade stated that the planned trip of the Premier and Foreign Minister of Yugoslavia to Berlin to sign a non-aggression pact with Germany had again been postponed, this time on the grounds of the Premier's illness. Germany, it was said, had not been adamant that Yugoslavia join the Tripartite Pact for the time being, but had demanded extensive military concessions pointing toward an imminent move southward in the Balkans

SUNDAY, March 16, 1941—The landings of the British forces in Greece were believed to have stiffened the attitude of the Yugoslav Government in regard to German demands. A Yugoslav official declared that his country would probably decline to accept German proposals until the situation in Greece had been "clarified." Observers noted that the Soviet Minister to Belgrade had suddenly returned after an absence of several months.

MONDAY, March 17, 1941—War in the Balkans between the Axis and a bloc consisting of Greece, Yugoslavia, Turkey and Britain was believed by diplomats in Belgrade to be inevitable. The position of the Yugoslav Government was now said to be in favor of cooperating with Britain and rejecting German demands for military concessions. Promises of Turkish support and of American supplies under the lease-lend law were believed to be factors in the situation.

TUESDAY, March 18, 1941—Yugoslavia and Turkey are moving swiftly to coordinate measures for defending their respective frontiers and "zones of security," it was reported yesterday in Berne, Switzerland. The Yugoslav Army corps based at Nish and Skolpje are being greatly strengthened; Turkey has moved four or five divisions of troops across to the European side of the Dardanelles,

and the Turkish Chief of Staff and Yugoslav Minister of War were reported to be en route to a meeting place in Yugoslav Macedonia. Reports that Britain had already landed troops at Salonika were discounted, but that she was prepared to land an army on quick notice was regarded as a foregone conclusion

A coolness in relations between Russia and Germany, caused by events in the Balkans, according to information reaching Washington, was interpreted as having improved Yugoslavia's chances of holding out. The Soviet Government was said not only to have been disturbed at Germany's failure to consult it on the Balkan moves but also to have been disappointed that Bulgaria did not fight. Russia was said to favor Turkey's entry into the war but to be too cautious to advocate it openly

Yugoslavia was greatly heartened by President Roosevelt's Sunday night speech, according to Belgrade reports, which also said feverish preparations were being made for defense and that there was a new "take-it-or-leave-it" attitude on the part of Yugoslav leaders concerning the small concessions that they have offered to Germany. The Premier and Foreign Minister are delaying for a day or two their projected trip to Germany

THURSDAY, March 20, 1941—Reports from Belgrade stated that German diplomatic activity in that capital had increased greatly, but that it was being matched with a proportionate increase in Yugoslav opposition to a pact with the Axis. In the meantime it was learned that former Premier Stoyadinovitch, noted for his German sympathies, had been transferred from Yugoslavia to Greece for possible "administrative internment"

FRIDAY, March 21, 1941—An emergency meeting of the Yugoslav Cabinet sat in lengthy session in Belgrade last night and early this morning in an effort to determine "final terms" for settlement of the Reich's demands on Yugoslavia. According to one report three Cabinet Ministers threatened to resign after the Crown Council had decided to enter into closer relations with Germany and it was believed that internal disorders would break out should the government adopt a pro-Nazi policy.

Official quarters in Berlin said that the German-Turkish situation had been "clarified" by President Inonu's reply to Reichsfuehrer Hitler's personal message, but no details were vouchsafed. Well-informed circles in Rome stated that Yugoslavia would sign the Axis pact within two or three days

SATURDAY, March 22, 1941—Signs of a possible internal crisis in Yugoslavia were evident last night as reports from Belgrade said that the Cabinet had finally agreed, under the pressure of added German demands, to the signing of a pact with the Reich. Three Cabinet members were said to have promptly resigned, with two more reported barely deterred from similar action. Under the leadership of the Agrarian party and the army, it was further stated, a large bloc opposed to any military concessions to Germany was being formed.

Prince Regent Paul and Premier Dragisha Cvetkovitch struggled desperately tonight to consolidate their government and avert a national crisis precipitated by the enlarged German demands, which brought about the resignations of three Cabinet Ministers today.

Prince Paul tonight accepted the resignations of Mikhail Konstantinovitch, Minister of Justice; Dr Srdjan

Budisavljevitch, Minister of Social Welfare, and Dr. Branko Chubrilovitch, Minister of Agriculture.

The Regent delayed acceptance of the resignations for nearly twelve hours while he and Premier Cvetkovitch sought vainly to persuade the three Ministers to remain in the cabinet and approve the proposed terms of an enlarged and amplified friendship and non-aggression pact with the Reich.

Premier Cvetkovitch, Foreign Minister Alexander Cincar-Markovitch, Vice Premier Vladimir Matchek; the Slovene leader, Father Fran Kulovetch, and the Minister of War, General Peter Pesitch were summoned to the White Palace tonight for a special council with the Prince Regent, the second time today that the Premier, Vice Premier and Father Kulovetch had conferred with Prince Paul. Details of the conversations were still unknown late tonight.

The American Minister, Arthur Bliss Lane, and the British Minister, Ronald Ian Campbell, conferred with Premier Cvetkovitch late this afternoon, but it was authoritatively denied that either the American or British Minister had made any proposals or suggestions. Their calls, it was said, were aimed purely at securing information about the intentions of this government. Both British and American diplomatic sources, it must be added, indicated tonight that the intentions of the government were still uncertain, since the Cabinet split and the unknown quantity of the opposition may swing the scale either way.

SUNDAY, March 23, 1941.—The Yugoslav Government crisis appeared to be nearing a climax as Regent Prince Paul and Premier Cvetkovitch struggled to replace the three Cabinet Ministers who had resigned and to achieve full Cabinet consent to a pact with an increasingly impatient Reich. Axis quarters in Belgrade said the Yugoslav Premier and Foreign Minister would sign an accord in Vienna Tuesday, but other circles predicted the early resignation of two more Cabinet members opposed to acceptance of the Nazi demands and, following that, the possible breakdown of the whole government.

Diplomatic circles in Ankara reported that Moscow would soon publish a statement reaffirming the pact of friendship and non-aggression between the U.S.S.R. and Turkey. The Soviet Union, it was stated, would also give Turkey material aid should the latter become involved in a war with Germany.

A growing coolness between Soviet Russia and Germany over Nazi penetration of the Balkans was reported in diplomatic circles in Washington, where it was pointed out that Germany was now in a position to wield greater pressure on the U.S.S.R. and even to attempt a drive into the Ukraine should relations between the two States deteriorate seriously.

MONDAY, March 24, 1941.—Although Axis quarters in Belgrade insisted yesterday that the Yugoslav Government had agreed to a pact of friendship with the Reich and would send high officials today to Vienna to sign such an accord, reliable reports in the Yugoslav capital said the crisis there was unabated and three vacancies caused by resignations in the Cabinet had not been filled. Anti-Nazi demonstrations in the provinces were reported growing rapidly and mail and telegrams continued to pour in on the Belgrade Government urging a strong stand against all Axis demands.

TUESDAY, March 25, 1941.—Yugoslavia will sign a German-dictated pact in Vienna this morning. The Yugoslav Premier and Foreign Minister left Belgrade by special train last night, accompanied by the German Minister to Belgrade. The pact, which is expected to bear little resemblance to those signed by other Central and Southern European nations, will grant to Germany, it is believed, only the use of transportation facilities and economic concessions. Threats of assassination made against Yugoslav officials caused a heavy guard to be placed on the ministerial train.

Bulgaria, expecting that a result of the pact would be the return to her of territory acquired by Yugoslavia in 1919, watched the developments with intense interest and with a hope that Yugoslavia's action might serve to stabilize the Balkan situation.

WEDNESDAY, March 26, 1941.—Yugoslavia formally adhered to the Tripartite Pact in a ceremony in Vienna yesterday, but Germany and Italy agreed in notes to respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Yugoslavia and not to request the right to transport troops over Yugoslav territory.

A wave of public anger swept over Yugoslavia at news of the capitulation, and the government responsible for it was reported already disintegrating.

THURSDAY, March 27, 1941.—The wave of public anger that rolled across Yugoslavia when her Premier and Foreign Minister signed the nation into the Axis seemed last night to be attaining violent stages, especially in Serbia and Montenegro. The men of these traditionally independent provinces were said to be streaming into the provincial capitals demanding arms and leadership against the Germans. In Belgrade eight major disturbances were reported, steel-helmeted police patrolled the town in trucks and unrest was said to be general.

Yugoslav shipping circles in New York revealed that plans had been formulated several months ago for the transfer to Great Britain of more than twenty-five Yugoslav ships totaling 200,000 tons, should Germany gain control of the nation. Britain received such assurances, it was disclosed, and has already dispatched from London to this country Yugoslav shipping experts to direct the details of the transfer.

Britain's attitude toward Yugoslavia's submission was illustrated when the Under-Secretary of Foreign Affairs stated in the Commons that such a course now opened the way for what he termed the usual Nazi method of infiltration, intimidation and destruction of Yugoslav sovereignty. At the same time a British Cabinet member broadcast an appeal to the Yugoslavs to resist.

London's discomfiture at the Balkan development, together with Washington's hint of disappointment, caused elation in Berlin. The addition of Yugoslavia to the Axis, said Nazi officials, was a major diplomatic defeat for the Anglo-American "coalition of opponents" of the "new order" in Europe.

Berlin made a show of another feather in its diplomatic cap. The Japanese Foreign Minister, fresh from a brief stop-over in Moscow, arrived in the German capital for a four-day visit and found Foreign Minister von Ribbentrop and General Keitel, Chief of the German General Staff, waiting at the station to greet him. As Japanese and German flags fluttered over Berlin, Nazi officialdom pointed to the visit of the Japanese leader as a fresh indication of the working solidarity of the tripartite pact.

FRIDAY, March 28, 1941 —The undercurrent of resentment that had seethed throughout Yugoslavia since the Regency signed the Axis pact Tuesday exploded before dawn yesterday when an army group, led by General Dusan Simovitch and officers of the Air Corps overthrew the Cvetkovitch government in a bloodless coup and installed on the throne the young King Peter II. A royal proclamation was immediately broadcast urging the nation to support the new regime, General Simovitch became Premier and formed an anti-Axis government, and pro-Axis leaders, including Prince Paul, the former chief Regent, were reported arrested.

So quietly was the coup carried out that the news burst upon the country as a complete surprise. Dispatches trickling through the tight Yugoslav censorship revealed that by 2 o'clock yesterday morning soldiers had been stationed at all strategic points in and around Belgrade, the Ministers of the Cvetkovitch government had been taken to army headquarters and the new government had firmly consolidated its hold upon the nation.

As the sun rose crowds formed in Belgrade yelling anti-Axis slogans and the offices of the German and Italian travel bureaus were wrecked. Throughout the country citizens of Germany and Italy were reported hurriedly preparing to leave.

Prime Minister Churchill, announcing the news of the Yugoslav coup to Britain, said the Yugoslav nation had found its soul. He pledged full British military aid should Yugoslavia decide to fight Germany. London termed the new development "the first major political defeat on the Continent for the Germans."

Washington, too, indicated its gratification over the Yugoslav action. Acting Secretary of State Welles, through the American Minister to Belgrade, advised the new regime of the sympathy of the United States and reminded it of the new powers granted to President Roosevelt under the lease-lend law to aid any nation fighting for its independence against aggression.

Official quarters in Berlin withheld comment on the news from Belgrade, but it was authoritatively reported that the German Foreign Office had sent Yugoslavia an "urgent request" for an explanation of the internal Yugoslav developments in view of the nation's signature of the Tripartite Pact.

As Berlin seethed with the developments in the Balkans, Foreign Minister Matsuoka of Japan moved imperturbably through a series of official conferences with Nazi leaders. Following an audience with Foreign Minister von Ribbentrop, the Japanese official was reported to have been closeted for two hours with Reichsfuehrer Hitler.

SATURDAY, March 29, 1941 —The new Yugoslav Government was reported yesterday to have advised Germany that Yugoslavia would adhere to all outstanding commitments but would also maintain a policy of strict neutrality as regards the European war. Yugoslav troops were said to be manning all frontier defenses.

Cheering crowds lined Belgrade's streets as young King Peter II drove to the cathedral to take the royal oath, clad in an air corps general's uniform and surrounded by the leaders of the new government. British and American diplomats attending the ceremony were enthusiastically hailed.

In addition to Germany's demand on Thursday that the new Yugoslav regime "clarify" its attitude toward its predecessor's signature of the Axis agreement, Berlin was

reported yesterday to have made representations on two more occasions in an effort to ascertain Belgrade's position. Official circles in Berlin declared that Germans in Yugoslavia had been manhandled during demonstrations.

From other capitals, however, Yugoslavia received communications of congratulation and sympathy. President Roosevelt, on behalf of the United States, cabled King Peter felicitations and expressed the wish that "mutually beneficial" relations might bind the two States. From London King George also sent good wishes to the young Yugoslav monarch.

The Vice President of the Turkish National Assembly warned that any threat to Turkey would turn the Near East "into a battleground."

That the news of Yugoslavia's coup had traveled far in Europe was indicated when large crowds in Marseille laid banks of flowers upon the scene of the assassination in 1934 of King Alexander of Yugoslavia and Foreign Minister Barthou of France.

SUNDAY, March 30, 1941 —Despite reports of Croat dissatisfaction over the military coup in Yugoslavia and apparent indications that a German propaganda campaign against the new regime was under way, Premier Simovitch was reported to be drafting with his Ministers a Yugoslav proclamation of strict neutrality in the war and "open and public agreements with all nations." The Croat leader, Dr. Vladimir Matchek, reports from Belgrade said, was being urged by General Simovitch to return to the capital, accept the Vice Premiership and around the throne.

Berlin still waited for clarification of Belgrade's position on the Axis, before making official declarations regarding Yugoslavia. Nazi quarters said the Reich would refuse to become embroiled in a war with Yugoslavia because of British conniving, but they also warned that Germany would not permit her nationals to be insulted. The German Government, one authorized source declared, is watching the situation with "ice-cold detachment."

German troop trains continued to stream south through Hungary, according to reports reaching Belgrade, where it was also learned that the Nazis had twenty-three divisions at strategic points in Bulgaria.

Responsible quarters in Washington took the point of view that the turn of events in Yugoslavia would deter Japan from announcing her entry into the war with the Axis against Britain. Senator George, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said the chances of a Japanese attack on Singapore had greatly diminished in recent weeks.

MONDAY, March 31, 1941 —That Italy might soon feel the force of an Allied offensive in Albania was indicated by a dispatch from Yugoslavia that said a general Allied drive along the entire Albanian front was being planned. The arrival in Greece of substantial British forces and anti-Italian sentiment among Yugoslav Army officers indicated the possibility that Yugoslavia might join Britain and Greece in attempting to inflict on the Italian forces in Albania a defeat leading to the elimination of Italy from the war.

Growing cooperation between Yugoslavia and Turkey was seen in reports that the Turkish Foreign Minister had conferred at length in Ankara with the Yugoslav Ambassador, who had then returned to Belgrade to report. The Budapest radio reported that the Turkish Foreign Minister had also left for the Yugoslav capital.

Germany announced, through her own official radio, that Yugoslavia had closed the entire Yugoslavia-German frontier except for one point of passage. About 1,200 Germans left Belgrade by Danube steamer and 3,000 were fleeing Croatia. More German as well as Italian citizens were reported to be pouring out of other sections of Yugoslavia by boat, train and automobile.

TUESDAY, April 1, 1941.—As the Reich Minister left Yugoslavia and German, Italian and British nationals were departing in haste, Premier Simovitch urged the Yugoslav people to shun panic, stand fast, and, "if destiny so orders it," to give their lives for their fatherland. He said the nation's military forces were ready. The government halted an exodus of Serbian women and children to the seacoast. German radio stations heaped vituperations against Serbia and the Yugoslav Army.

A general mobilization of the Yugoslav Army that would place the country on a war footing, with 1,500,000 men under arms, is expected to be ordered tomorrow midnight. Preliminary steps already had been taken toward this end, schools were closed and all traffic was about to be suspended throughout the country.

A Yugoslav statement on the foreign policy of the new regime was on its way to Berlin or had already arrived, a German Foreign Office source intimated. Between 16,000 and 20,000 Germans had been ordered by Berlin to leave Yugoslavia. It was explained that Germany considered herself responsible for peace in Southeastern Europe, but that the time for enforcing it was not yet at hand.

WEDNESDAY, April 2, 1941.—Italy made a last-minute attempt yesterday to prevent war between Germany and Yugoslavia, but all indications pointed to almost certain failure. The German radio and press Blitzkrieg of vituperation, reminiscent of pre-invasion denunciation of Polish "atrocities," increased in violence, a German Legation spokesman in Belgrade said bluntly that the situation was hopeless. Italy's offer, inspired by the threat of a Yugoslav thrust into Albania, proposed mediation by Premier Mussolini himself, but there was no indication Yugoslavia would accept.

Into Belgrade's streets all day long there poured a stream of hardy, singing peasant recruits for the Yugoslav Army, which tomorrow will be brought to a war footing of 1,800,000 soldiers at a maximum. German troop concentrations hastily were being reformed along the Yugoslav borders.

In Berlin, where official quarters viewed the swiftly evolving situation with utmost gravity, the charges of Yugoslav attacks on the German racial minority within the country were elaborated. The visit of British Foreign Secretary Eden and Chief of Staff General Dill to Athens was regarded as having been occasioned by Yugoslavia's resistance to Germany.

THURSDAY, April 3, 1941.—Yugoslavia seemed poised on the brink of war yesterday as last-minute Italian negotiations looking toward a German-Yugoslav rapprochement were said to have failed utterly. A German attack on Yugoslavia was expected at any moment by Belgrade government circles despite Italy's efforts to attract a Yugoslav deputation to Rome for peace talks and her reported apprehension over an outbreak of war in the Balkans. The Yugoslav Minister to Berlin was said to be en route to the Reich capital with an important

missive from the Yugoslav Premier to Reichsfuehrer Hitler.

Belgrade sped its preparations for war as informed government quarters believed open conflict with Germany was fast approaching. The Yugoslav Army was said to be virtually on a war footing and planes cruised in patrol over the capital all day. Railway stations and trains bound for Greece and Turkey were reported jammed with refugees. From Hungary and Bulgaria came reports of widespread German military activity.

FRIDAY, April 4, 1941.—Dr. Vladimir Matchek, leader of more than 4,500,000 Croats in Northern Yugoslavia, decided to rejoin the government and was reported on his way to Belgrade to become First Vice Premier. He called upon his followers to aid in every way the military preparations of the Yugoslav armed forces to resist a German invasion. The government declared Belgrade, Zagreb, Ljubljana open cities.

The complete breakdown of Italy's last-minute effort to mediate between the Reich and Yugoslavia was seen as Rome ordered the members of its legation in Belgrade to return home. Diplomatic relations between Belgrade and the Axis were reported now a mere formality. It was believed that General Simovitch, the Premier, would issue his long-awaited statement on Yugoslav foreign policy today.

High Nazi quarters in Berlin disclosed to the German public for the first time the appearance of considerable British forces, including infantry and armored divisions, on the Greek-Yugoslav frontier. German-Yugoslav tension appeared undiminished in the Reich's capital.

Rome, however, was restrained in its view of the Yugoslav situation and the controlled Fascist press remained calm. Minor student demonstrations, including one in which students half-heartedly yelled, "We Want Dalmatia," were reported.

SATURDAY, April 5, 1941.—Growing numbers of German troops were reported pouring south through Hungary and on into Rumania and Bulgaria yesterday as Yugoslav military experts feared that a huge German attack was imminent. King Peter II's official mobilization proclamation was released, although mobilization of all Yugoslav forces was put into effect last Tuesday. The nation's railroads were being taken over by the military, and one report stated that four Nazi Tyrolean divisions were en route to Albania to bolster the Italian defenses.

Yugoslavia was believed playing for time against the opening of a German offensive. It was reported that the statement on the nation's foreign policy had been accepted by the Cabinet and would be proclaimed by Premier General Simovitch today. Vladimir Matchek, leader of the Croats and "peacemaker" of the Yugoslav regime, was reported to have denied that Yugoslavia would seek peace at any price.

SUNDAY, April 6, 1941.—Yugoslavia was reported on a virtual war basis early this morning as the Cabinet, sitting in an emergency session in Belgrade, fought for time against what appeared to be an imminent German attack. The diplomatic corps prepared to leave the capital and arrangements were made to send representatives with the Yugoslav Government if it moved its seat. The German, Italian, Hungarian, Rumanian and Bulgarian frontiers were formally closed; Yugoslav ships were

ordered back to port and German troops were reported to have arrived in Albania and to be moving into place all along Yugoslavia's frontiers

From London came the report that the Moscow radio had announced the signing in Moscow of a Yugoslav-Russian treaty of friendship and nonaggression. Should either signatory become the victim of aggression, the announcement said, the other will pursue a policy of "strictest friendship"

A sign that the German Government was taking the most serious view of the Yugoslav situation was seen in the statement in the whole Nazi press that "Yugoslavia prepares for war!" That diplomatic relations between the two States were virtually non-existent was confirmed by government spokesmen, one of whom asserted that King Peter's mobilization proclamation indicated definite martial intentions.

MONDAY, April 7, 1941.—The familiar pattern of a full-scale German Blitzkrieg unfolded yesterday as Berlin bulletins asserted German troops were moving slowly but steadily into Yugoslavia and Greece despite fierce Greek resistance in the Struma Valley. The Nazi air force, striking hard at Yugoslav objectives, was said to have attacked Belgrade three times, leaving large fires and serious damage. Eighty-five Yugoslav planes were reported destroyed during the day and the government of Premier Simovitch was said to have transferred to Vranesh, in Southern Serbia.

Dispatches reaching Berne said the Yugoslav Air Force had harassed German troop movements throughout the day and had protected Yugoslav engineers engaged in blocking the Iron Gate, Danube narrows, with concrete-laden barges. British troops were said to have landed at three points on the Yugoslav coast to meet any German drive south from Hungary.

Violent attacks by Italian planes on the Yugoslav harbors of Kotor and Spalato and on the airdrome at Mostar, with accompanying fires and damage in each case, were reported in a special bulletin of the German radio. The Italian radio revealed that the Axis had promised the now-fallen Cvetkovitch government of Yugoslavia "fulfillment" of Yugoslav territorial demands on Greece in return for adherence to the Tripartite Pact.

The Rumanian radio announced the bombing of Rumanian territory by Yugoslav aircraft. A radio report heard in Berne said Rumania had ordered general mobilization.

In Washington Secretary of State Hull promptly condemned the "barbaric invasion of Yugoslavia" and indicated that speedy aid would be dispatched the Balkan State in keeping with the United States policy of "helping those who are defending themselves against would-be conquerors." Mr. Hull instructed the United States Minister to Yugoslavia to remain with the government wherever it moved.

There was little surprise in Turkey over the Nazi attack in the Balkans, but it was intimated in official circles that Turkey would remain strictly neutral, watching possible moves by Bulgaria.

The Soviet press inferentially laid direct blame for the outbreak of war in the Balkans on Germany as it affirmed that the people of Yugoslavia did not want war. Soviet Russia's non-aggression and friendship pact with Yugoslavia was termed an "outstanding milestone" in the efforts of the two nations to preserve peace.

TUESDAY, April 8, 1941.—Yugoslav troops of the Fifth and Third Armies launched a dawn attack yesterday and after fierce fighting were reported to have occupied the Albanian town of Scutari at the Yugoslav frontier on the Dalmatian coast. Italian troops withdrew to hills outside the city to await reinforcements from Tyrolese troops in the southwest. The Italians abandoned Zara, near the Dalmatian coast, and the Yugoslavs were reported to have driven into Hungary near Szeged.

Greek forces, meanwhile, were reported to have abandoned Thrace, allowing German units to reach the sea near the Turkish border, but to be holding their own in fierce fighting along the narrow Struma Valley and in the steep gorges of Macedonia. Royal Air Force bombers reported a decisive victory over Nazi fliers on that front, and strong attacks by both British and Greek planes were said to have been made on Italian forces in Albania.

Berlin, acknowledging stiff enemy resistance in the Struma sector, asserted nevertheless that German operations were "progressing according to plan." It said Nazi troops had penetrated enemy territory as much as twenty-five miles. The German radio said that the German Air Force had heavily damaged Yugoslav airports, troop concentrations and transport and communications centers, and had demolished traffic and communications in Belgrade, which had been bombed five times. One hundred and two Allied planes were said to have been destroyed.

WEDNESDAY, April 9, 1941.—German units overcame the desperate resistance of Greek troops at Guevgueli Pass late yesterday and broke through the Vardar River valley to within twenty-three miles of Salonika, cutting off the Eastern Macedonian army, a Greek communiqué acknowledged early this morning. An earlier Greek statement had declared that a Yugoslav troop withdrawal in South Serbia had exposed the Greek left flank.

Other German forces have taken the strategically important Yugoslav city of Skoplje, commanding the head of the Vardar valley, according to unofficial advices from Berlin. The German strategy appeared to involve a thrust across Southern Yugoslavia from Bulgaria to Albania, to make a juncture with Italian forces in Albania and thus cut off the Serbian Army from its Greek allies to the south.

Yugoslav General Headquarters asserted that all attacks had been repulsed with heavy losses to the enemy and that the situation continued favorable on all fronts. Yugoslav mountain troops pushed eastward up the Drin River from Scutari near the Dalmatian coast. In another push southward they were reported to have captured Alessio. Acknowledging the loss of some positions in Southeastern Macedonia, the Yugoslavs said that an attack on communication lines east of Skoplje by German parachutists had been quickly frustrated.

In Rome, news of the fighting continued scant, but a war bulletin said that contact had been made between advance units of the Italian and Yugoslav troops and that Greek local attacks had been repulsed with loss of many prisoners.

President Roosevelt sent a message to King Peter of Yugoslavia assuring him of speedy assistance from this country and expressing earnest hope for a successful resistance. In a press conference later, however, the President said he could not tell whether American war materials would arrive in time to help Yugoslavia. The State Department, meanwhile, received assurances from the American Minister to Belgrade that he and his staff were safe.



THURSDAY, April 10, 1941.—Germany yesterday claimed impressive gains in her twin invasions of Greece and Yugoslavia. The Nazi High Command announced that the Aegean port of Salonika had been captured and that all Greek forces east of the Vardar River had surrendered. Communications between the main Yugoslav forces and Greek-British troops have been virtually severed by Nazi forces driving across Southern Serbia and reaching towns near the Albanian frontier, Berlin added. The German push, aimed at a junction with Italian forces in Albania, has already netted 20,000 Yugoslav troops, including six generals, Nazi official circles reported.

The Athens radio, however, proclaimed that the Greek troops in Macedonia cut off from their main forces by the German advance to the Aegean were still resisting. The radio stated that this advance had been foreseen and that the main Greek forces, together with British mechanized divisions, had taken positions across the Vardar, west of Salonika.

Yugoslavia's invasion of Albania was reported progressing. The bulk of the Fifth Yugoslav Army, according to advices reaching Berne, was steadily advancing into Northern Albania after having crossed the Drin River at numerous points. In South Serbia the hard-pressed Yugoslavs were reported counter-attacking the Germans in the mountains north of Skoplje.

Turkey's Foreign Minister was reported to have advised the Ambassadors of Yugoslavia, Greece and Britain that Turkey had no idea of entering the present Balkan conflict unless she herself were attacked.

FRIDAY, April 11, 1941.—Berne reports stated that German forces were firmly installed in Northern Yugoslavia, holding Ljubljana and adjacent territory in addition to Zagreb. Another German column, striking west from Rumania, was reported at Belgrade. In South Serbia the situation was described as "stationary" with the Germans trying to force the narrow Kachanik Pass, north of Skoplje.

That the dissolution of Yugoslavia was already commencing under the pressure of Axis blows was indicated by a German report that Croatia would become independent, under the leadership of Vladimir Matchek, Vice Premier in the Simovitch anti-Axis regime, and Ante Pavelitch, former terrorist chief and long a political fugitive in Italy. Hungarian troops were reported early today to have entered Yugoslavia to reoccupy territories taken from Hungary in 1918.

SATURDAY, April 12, 1941.—The first contact between Reichsfuehrer Hitler's armored divisions and the British forces in Greece was reported yesterday to have taken place Thursday. Yesterday, it was said, German mechanized units broke through Bitolj Pass on the Greek-Yugoslav frontier and advanced into the Allied left flank in the Florina region. On the right flank, German forces driving down the Aegean coast were reported striking Allied lines near Yanitza, thirty miles west of Salonika.

One Yugoslav Army, according to reports reaching Berne, was engaged in a terrific battle with German forces west of Skoplje, where Nazi troops were striving to join Italian forces on the Albanian border. The German lines in the Tetovo valley were reported cut twice in twenty-four hours by the Yugoslav troops, aided by Royal Air Force craft, and Yugoslav reports said Italian attempts to push east from Albania had been repulsed. One hun-

dred and seventy Nazi tanks were reported destroyed by Yugoslav troops in the fighting in Serbia.

Official Berlin circles termed the campaign in Yugoslavia a total disaster for Yugoslav arms and asserted that the defending armies were now virtually non-existent. More than 10,000 Yugoslav troops were reported captured in Central Serbia, and the total of prisoners taken in the reported disruption of Yugoslav military operations in Southern Serbia was said to have risen to 40,000. Reported contact between Italian units and German forces near Lake Ochrida was confirmed by the German High Command.

Fascist quarters in Rome intimated that Italy would claim the region of Kossovo, north of Albania and with an approximated 1,000,000 Albanian residents, if and when Yugoslavia should be divided among the Axis powers.

SUNDAY, April 13, 1941.—The Greek Armies on the left flank of the Allied line in Greece were reported yesterday to have met and repulsed a strong attack by German mechanized units in the vicinity of Florina and Vanitza, just below the Yugoslav-Greek frontier. German advance forces advanced south to Yanitza, on the right flank, and the Nazi air force heavily bombed Piræus, where, Berlin said, empty British troop transports are massed.

Reports reaching Berne said Yugoslav forces were conducting a strong counter-attack north and northwest of Skoplje in Central Serbia and had smashed German opposition and driven the enemy back along a front from Vrapcista north to Presevo. Yugoslav reports also said that only light motorcycle units formed the reported line of contact between Axis forces at Lake Ochrida and added that this line had been repeatedly cut. The Yugoslav advance in Albania continued against increased opposition from Nazi Tyrolean forces, it was said.

Berlin heard that German forces were rapidly consolidating their hold on Northern Yugoslavia and had taken Varazdin, north of Zagreb, and Karlovac, to the southeast. Reich forces were said to be converging on Belgrade and to have broken Yugoslav resistance in the Croatian mountains while the German air force was reported particularly active in North Bosnia between the Danube and the Sava rivers.

A Rome military communiqué said Italian forces operating in Northwest Yugoslavia had occupied Ljubljana, previously taken by the Germans, and were proceeding east along the Sava Valley. Susak, Yugoslav twin city of Italian Fiume, was reported taken by Fascist troops after Yugoslav forces had withdrawn. Italian forces have also taken Dibra, on the Yugoslav-Albanian frontier, Rome said.

Hungarian troops entering Northeast Yugoslavia were said in Budapest to have occupied Subotica, at the border, and the near-by villages of Dorda and Sombor.

Russia announced that she had notified the Hungarian Government that the entry of Hungarian troops into Yugoslavia had created a "particularly bad impression" in Moscow and could not receive the approval that the Hungarian Government requested. Diplomatic quarters in Moscow noted that the German Ambassador had been summoned to Berlin "for consultation."

MONDAY, April 14, 1941.—It became evident, meanwhile that the German drive into Greece and Southern Yugoslavia was slowing, and in some sectors had stopped.



Scattered reports from Yugoslavia indicated that Yugoslav guerrilla tactics, and pressure in the Skoplje zone, had disrupted German supply lines and halted the drive down through Bitolj Pass against the Allied line in Greece.

Repeated German mechanized attacks against both flanks of the Allied line across Greece throughout the day were reported hurled back with losses to the attackers. The Royal Air Force and Allied aircraft were said to be doing heroic service in smashing and disrupting tenuous German supply lines.

The German Government announced the occupation of Belgrade by Reich forces one week after the opening of the invasion, bringing to thirteen the number of European capitals placed under Nazi domination since 1936. The capture of 12,000 Yugoslav troops, including twenty-two generals and 200 officers, in the Zagreb area was also reported.

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TUESDAY, April 15, 1941.—British troops on the Allied line in Greece have been forced to "withdraw to new positions" after having decisively defeated a mechanized force of Adolf Hitler's Elite Guard, it was announced yesterday. The Germans exerted heavy pressure north of Mount Olympus in their drive from Salonika, but their attacks at Bitolj were repulsed, it was said. In London it was believed that both sides were sparring for advantageous positions for a big offensive.

Berlin described the British "withdrawal" as a precipitate evacuation, declaring that British troops were hastily embarking from Greek ports and even from points along the open shore. German sources said Nazi bombers had sunk 30,000 tons of British transports in Piræus Harbor and had damaged 80,000 tons more. The Yugoslav Army has been defeated, it was insisted, and reports of Yugoslav counter-attacks were ridiculed. There was no official report on land operations against the Greeks. The German assertions of a British evacuation from Greece were not confirmed in London; the British wireless, in fact, reported that new reinforcements were moving up.

In contradiction of the German claim of a Yugoslav defeat, reports from Athens and Berne indicated that the German advance had been delayed on all fronts and that in certain sectors the Yugoslavs had taken the offensive. It was reported without confirmation that they had occupied the Albanian port of Durazzo. A Yugoslav division annihilated an armored German unit south of Topola, another force was counter-attacking in the southwest and still another continued to hold the northern exit of Kachanik Pass, it was reported. An orderly withdrawal to defense positions on the Sava River was under way in the north.

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WEDNESDAY, April 16, 1941.—The German High Command's communiqué indicated that one Nazi column had moved southward and captured the Greek towns of Ptolemais and Koziani and had then crossed the Vistritza River, north of Servia, while another force had pushed southwest from Salonika and crossed the lower Vistritza. The British covered their retreat with rear-guard action and endeavored to delay the German advance by destroying what they could along the line of retreat, according to Berlin. Isolated remnants of the Yugoslav Army were being mopped up with little resistance, the communiqué added.

Although official German sources were silent regarding the asserted British "evacuation" of Greece, the press and military quarters depicted the British Expeditionary Force as being in full flight under constant bombing from the air.

Rome sources declared the Yugoslav Army as such had been annihilated and also foresaw a speedy victory in Greece. The Italian forces in Albania, it was stated, have begun a double offensive, one drive directed toward the Greek town of Argyrokastron to the south, and the other in the north aimed at Kastoria across the Greek frontier. Italian motorized columns also were said to be advancing in the Lake Presba region toward the Albanian town of Bikhishta, near the Greek frontier.

Reports were heard in Rome that the Yugoslavs had asked for an armistice, but Berlin sources declared that only unconditional surrender would be considered now.

Yugoslav reports, however, indicated that there would be no capitulation. These reports spoke of a Yugoslav advance to Skoplje and said the defenders had retaken other towns. Moreover, according to Allied sources, Yugoslav resistance in the north and Greek and British resistance in the south have forced the Germans to send for reinforcements to double their original strength, and Allied aerial activity seriously threatens the effectiveness of even that step.

Reichsfuehrer Hitler and Premier Mussolini gave recognition to the new independent State of Croatia in telegrams sent to Ante Pavelitch, veteran Croat leader, and Premier Kvaternik, who had asked the Axis partners for their benediction. Herr Hitler suggested adjustment of boundary problems.

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THURSDAY, April 17, 1941.—The Italian Second Army, progressing south along the Yugoslav coast, was reported in Rome to have taken Spalato, and the Italian Government promptly announced the appointment of "civil commissioners" for Slovenia and Dalmatia. On the Southern Albanian border Italian troops were reported advancing south, despite Yugoslav opposition near Lake Ochrida and the Viosa River.

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SATURDAY, April 19, 1941.—Reichsfuehrer Hitler has arrived at German headquarters in the Balkans and will pass his fifty-second birthday tomorrow directing the campaign against the Allies in Greece, the German press announced.

As Greek troops have retreated back into Greece from Albania, Italian forces have followed closely and now hold the entire Albanian-Greek frontier from Perat to Lake Presba, Italian military headquarters announced. Fascist forces have also converged at Ragusa on the Yugoslav Adriatic coast and now control the entire Dalmatian shore, it was added. The Italian news agency said Italian forces were pushing south toward Yanina, Greece, after retaking Argyrokastron, on the Albanian border.

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TUESDAY, April 22, 1941.—In an attempt to prevent open hostilities between Hungary and Rumania over territorial divisions, the German and Italian Foreign Ministers were reported to have left for Vienna for preliminary discussions on the division of the Yugoslav spoils. The Budapest government was said to be experiencing difficulty in restraining demands of the Hungarian people for seizure of "Hungarian" territory across

the Tisza River, and Bucharest was reported to be pressing its demand for a readjustment of the loss of Transylvania last year

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FRIDAY, April 25, 1941 —Despite the Allied resistance in Greece, disquiet was widespread in London over the Balkan campaign. Prime Minister Churchill promised the Commons a full accounting at the earliest moment compatible with the safety of the Allied forces in the Greek peninsula, and he urged the members not to lose their "sense of proportion" over the events there. Hints of a Cabinet shake-up began to circulate.

Discontent over the Balkan venture still seethed also in Australia. The Australian Prime Minister, now in London, cabled the Acting Premier to commence nego-

tiations with the Australian Labor party to form a national government, but the Labor party, which gained a majority in Parliament through the death of the government whip, was not expected to cooperate in such a plan

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MONDAY, April 28, 1941 —The German swastika fluttered over the Acropolis yesterday morning after German motor cycle units had led Nazi forces into Athens, just three weeks from the start of Reichsfuehrer Hitler's Balkan campaign. German troops crossed the Gulf of Patras and occupied Patras on the Peloponnesus as parachutists seized the Corinth canal and Corinth itself. The Athens radio, broadcasting for the first time in German, indicated that the Greek campaign was virtually at an end.



## SECTION TWO

This section covers events from March 25 through April 28, 1941. All Dispatches, Articles, Special Features and Editorials by the following correspondents are taken from *The New York Times*.

Hanson W. Baldwin, Daniel T. Brigham, Ray Brock, Turner Catledge, Michael Chinigo, Camille M. Cianfarra, Walter Duranty, Guido Enderis, G. E. R. Gedye, George F. Horne, Bertram D. Hulen, Edwin L. James, Arthur Krock, Herbert L. Matthews, Anne O'Hare McCormick, Pertinax, C. Brooks Peters, Robert P. Post, A. C. Sedgwick, C. L. Sulzberger, Otto D. Tolischus and others.



## SERBS STIR RISINGS AGAINST AXIS DEAL

**Fall of Cabinet Is Threatened as Yugoslav Anger Spreads—Demonstrators Jailed.**

BY RAY BROCK

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia, March 25—The patchwork Cvetkovitch government, which capitulated to Germany in Vienna today and signed a pact with the Axis, already was disintegrating tonight in Yugoslavia under a wave of public anger. Its complete collapse is confidently expected in high political circles here soon after the Premier and Foreign Minister return from Germany.

Belgrade was dumfounded today by the resignation of the Germanophile Minister of Education, Dusan Pantitch. A sensation followed when usually reliable sources reported that Mihailo Konstantinovitch, the Minister of Justice, was maintaining his resignation despite its non-acceptance by the Prince Regent.

Prince Paul himself was scheduled to broadcast to the country late today in an effort to soothe the inflamed peasantry and find some support among the people for a government that defied the will and traditions of the Yugoslavs, most of whom seem to be clamoring for the downfall of the government and an opportunity to defend the country with arms against Germany.

The broadcast was repeatedly postponed and appeared tonight to have been canceled.

### *More Resignations Likely*

Additional resignations from the Cvetkovitch Cabinet, led by those of Milan Protitch, Minister of Supply, and Dr. Juraj Shutej, Finance Minister, seemed almost certain, according to well-informed political circles here.

Agrarian party circles here tonight said the party president, Milan Gavrilovitch, had filed his resignation with the Foreign Office today from his post as Yugoslav Minister to Moscow and was returning immediately to lead his party with the now fast-uniting opposition.

While reinforced squads of regular and special police guarded the German and Italian Legations, extra policemen were posted in public gathering places to maintain order in Belgrade. The huge public outcry against capitulation took shape in demonstrations throughout most of the provinces.

Two thousand shouting peasants bearing pitchforks and clubs stormed into Hadji Popovec in Central Serbia today. In Kragujevac, the old Serbian capital, the peasants and townspeople met in a protest meeting.

### *Protest Is Widespread*

Uprisings of protest were reported in the banovinas of Bosnia, Herzegovina, Montenegro and in the towns of Podgorica, Berani and Cetinje.

The management closed a textile factory in Belgrade late this afternoon when a workers' demonstration started. Nearly 300 boys between the ages of 14 and 19 went on strike in three Belgrade schools, marched downstairs and into the courtyard, where they upbraided the government and demanded, "Let us defend our country!" The older leaders at the trade academy school obtained a British Union Jack, which they ran up the flagpole late this afternoon to the accompaniment of cheering by people in the streets.

### *Belgrade Dissidents Jailed*

The most important demonstrations took place in the capital itself and the ringleaders were jailed. There was

no bloodshed. In the provinces, however, there were bloody riots, the principal ones being in Cetinje, the capital of Montenegro, and at Kragujevac, where there had been trouble yesterday.

In Cetinje the townspeople, who average a height of six feet three inches, gathered in front of a monument cheering the army and King Peter, but shouting down all other government leaders, including the Prince Regent, and then marched through the streets to the house of the Army Commandant and demanded that he make a speech, which he refused to do.

Reports continued to come into the capital tonight of angry demonstrations throughout Bosnia, Montenegro, Serbia, South Serbia, Macedonia and Herzegovina. That there have been others in Slavonia was implied in a series of communiqués printed in Wednesday's Politika, declaring all was quiet in specified parts of the country, but not mentioning the above provinces or Slavonia, which adjoins Hungary.

There were reports of pro-German demonstrations at Dubrovnik, Zagreb and Sissak, but these were significantly quiet and orderly.

The British and Greek Legations were besieged by Serbian boys and young men, most of them demanding uniforms and transportation to the Albanian and African fronts. The waiting rooms of both legations and the Turkish Embassy were jammed with Britons and other foreigners pleading for visas immediately to leave the country.

The baggage checkroom at the central railroad station was inundated tonight with piles of baggage, golf clubs, skis and tennis racquets. The 11:40 P. M. train for Salonika and Istanbul was booked to capacity.

While the tide of evacuation reached a new high and gloom ruled in the foreign colony, church leaders, Yugoslav political opposition leaders, young army officers and common soldiers, the peasants and townspeople appeared to be uniting in an impressing and apparently spontaneous nationwide determination to undo what has been done, unseat those who did it and confront Germany with an about-face of Yugoslav policy—made this time in Yugoslavia.

### *Cabinet Overthrow Possible*

The shortest route to an overthrow of the government is, of course, wholesale resignation of the Cabinet. Agrarian and Independent Democratic leaders hope to precipitate this by their wholesale resignations from all State posts and a common front in opposition. The Serbian Orthodox Church leaders, at their meeting tomorrow, will present to the Patriarch a formal resolution condemning the capitulation, according to information from church circles tonight.

Soldiers and young officers are making their pressure felt up through the ranks to the divisional and general staff leaders, who have the ear of War Minister Peter Pesitch. The people are already rising in widespread and still unorganized opposition, which probably will be the final factor.

The Serbian Komitajis, the irregular but tightly knit organization of guerrilla fighters, already have flung down their warning—that capitulation means death or exile for every man who participates.

Some observers here wondered whether Ljubomir Pantitch's resignation from his post as Physical Culture Minister was not partly inspired by receipt of a Komitaji letter. M. Pantitch's friends said the Germanophile Minister quit because a higher post had been promised—

justice or agriculture—during the tentative Cabinet juggling over the week-end and had been forgotten in the excitement.

Whatever the reason for M. Pantitch's resignation, the Komitajis are uniformly furious, resolute and determined that today's scenes at Vienna shall be obliterated, peacefully if possible, by violence if necessary, but obliterated. The Komitajis include peasants and former peasants, business men, lawyers, doctors, kafana keepers, old men and young men from all walks of Serbian life. The emblem of the old veterans is a lapel button patterned after a Mills bomb.

#### *Serbs Seethe with Anger*

It was a somewhat frightened experience to mingle today with Serbs of long acquaintance, observing what the events of last night and today had done to them. Some of the older men were in tears and could not talk at all, except in bitterly ejaculated words of profanity.

A few—very few—had taken refuge in slivovitz, drinking the hot Serbian brandy from noontime on until the huge headlines and pictures of the 1 o'clock special editions and the fanfare from Vienna faded into the background. Some of these business men and elderly editors were reminiscent of some of the Czechs known to this correspondent in Prague in 1938.

The younger men and most of the older ones who are still active Komitajis bore no resemblance to the Czechs and little resemblance to themselves as of the day before yesterday. There was not one smile, not one pleasantry or joke among men celebrated for their political wit. Not one laugh—even when it was reliably reported that M. Pantitch had gone straight from his office today to his home and to bed.

There was only an uninterrupted exchange of plans and ideas in the coldest imaginable manner, as if the subject under discussion were the Autumn slaughtering of the hogs. The German demands, the capitulation, the pact were all abandoned as topics of conversation. These men, like others sitting at other kafanas in other parts of Belgrade, were discussing ways and means \* \* \*

In the streets there was a new blossoming of the lapel-button Union Jack and the crossed British and Greek flags that have become so popular here in recent weeks. Almost every Serb is wearing one, even some government office-holders, government party functionaries and men in uniform.

#### *Opposition Is Incredulous*

By noon there could scarcely have been any one in Belgrade old enough to read who did not know what was happening in Vienna. Nevertheless, the appearance of the special 1 o'clock editions of the Vreme and the Politika, black with headlines and pictures, caused a momentary flurry of excitement. The flimsy four-page Vreme and the one-page Politika leaflet bore details of the von Ribbentrop and Ciano notes to the Yugoslav Foreign Minister.

Some readers placed the papers beside them and read again and again, as if to make sure the words really were there. Others took one glance and crumpled the paper. Still others read slowly, cursing softly—Serbian is a most expressive language—between the paragraphs.

The freezing of Yugoslav credits in the United States brought home with painful suddenness to hundreds of persons just what today's events will mean to them in the future.

"Well, we knew it would happen if this thing came about," said a Serbian banker, "only we did not think this thing of today would happen."

The post-mortems that went on in the diplomatic colony disclosed little that was significant or new. Greek sources betrayed the indignation of their country and anger, but little surprise. There were Turkish assurances that Turkey was disappointed, but not caught unaware.

The British have expressed their point of view, but the Yugoslav Government has not yet replied to the British note of yesterday. The Cvetkovitch government is expected to do little but acknowledge receipt of it.

#### **ENVOY TO MOSCOW RESIGNS**

MOSCOW, March 25 (AP)—Milan Gavrilovitch, Yugoslavia's first Minister to Russia and a leader of the Agrarian party, which opposed alliance with the Axis, announced today that he had resigned his diplomatic post.

M. Gavrilovitch said he sent his resignation to Belgrade yesterday after the Cabinet was reorganized minus representatives of his party. He did not announce his plans, but it was understood he expected to return to Belgrade. A prominent Serbian publisher and politician, he came to Moscow after Yugoslavia recognized the Soviet government last May.

#### **U. S. PRAISES SOVIET FOR BALKAN STAND**

**Welles Welcomes Neutrality of Great Power and Turkey in Yugoslav Crisis—Belgrade Funds Frozen—Government Is the Thirteenth to Come Under U. S. Ban As Result of Occupation.**

BY BERTRAM D. HULEN

WASHINGTON, March 25—The United States threw its weight further into the European scales today by expressing satisfaction over the reaffirmation by Russia and Turkey of their policy of "comprehensive neutrality" and praising the Soviet Union as a great power.

Speaking informally at a press conference, Sumner Welles, Acting Secretary of State, said that in times like these, particularly during the past months, when so many independent nations had suffered at least temporary loss of their autonomy and their independence, it was a matter of satisfaction to this country when a great power like the Soviet Union reaffirmed its intention of maintaining its "comprehensive neutrality" in the event that a neighboring country suffered attack.

#### *Effect in Crisis Cited*

It was the first time since the Communist regime came into power, according to officials, that the Soviet Government had been referred to by this government as a great power.

Although Mr. Welles spoke in response to questions, it was obvious that he was prepared to make the statement and had carefully chosen his words. It was deemed equally obvious that the intention was to encourage the Soviet Union at a very critical time, not only in the Balkans, but in the Far East.

At the same time an indication that the United States considered the Yugoslav question very largely decided by Belgrade's adherence to the Axis, even though in a modified form, was given through an executive order signed

by President Roosevelt freezing the more than \$50,000,000 of Yugoslav credits in this country.

The freezing order, the thirteenth to be signed since the German invasion of Denmark and Norway last April, was announced by the Treasury. It did not matter that Yugoslavia had not been occupied by German troops, Mr. Welles subsequently explained, since the primary purpose of this government was to preserve the assets held in the United States for the peoples of the countries that had fallen into the Nazi orbit. That was the basis on which these steps were taken in every instance, he emphasized.

#### *Yugoslav Envoy Active*

In the past two weeks Constantine Fotich, the Yugoslav Minister, has conferred repeatedly with Mr. Welles. If his object was to discourage the issuance of a freezing order so that his government might continue in full control of its funds in this country, his counsel did not prevail.

Yugoslav assets in the United States are almost all in earmarked gold deposits. United States investments in Yugoslavia total \$36,000,000, of which \$32,000,000 are in government bonds and \$4,000,000 in direct investments.

Mr. Welles at his press conference also conceded for the first time that the United States had sought to encourage Yugoslavia to resist the German demands. If this was not done in collaboration with Great Britain, it appeared to have been in support of the arguments being advanced by the British in Belgrade.

The revelation was couched in highly diplomatic language. Asked what steps this country had taken in the Yugoslav crisis, the Acting Secretary of State recalled that President Roosevelt, as far back as the Spring of 1939, had sent certain messages in which he expressed the earnest hope in the name of the United States Government that the integrity and independence and sovereignty of all independent countries would be respected by the other powers of the world.

#### **U. S. EFFORTS REVEALED**

##### **Belgrade Envoy Emphasized Aid for Any Nation Defending Itself.**

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia, March 25 (AP).—A qualified neutral source said today Arthur Bliss Lane, United States Minister to Yugoslavia, had conducted a vigorous four weeks' campaign while Yugoslavia was considering joining the Axis to let Belgrade know the position of the United States.

The Minister, this source said, made it clear to dozens of government leaders, from Prince Regent Paul down, that the United States would "aid any nation that would defend itself."

Mr. Lane's campaign kept up until last Sunday, when he learned of the final decision to sign the Tripartite Pact.

The Minister gained the impression that German demands on Yugoslavia had changed frequently and that not until late in the negotiations did Berlin insist on signature to the Axis agreement. This, it was said, explained the frequently contradictory reports of the German demands.

The United States Legation here was notified today of the freezing of Yugoslav funds in the United States, but evening newspapers published no word of it. News of Washington's action, however, was broadcast by foreign radios heard here.

Government circles took the attitude that they had been amply warned of the possible freezing of funds and were reconciled to paying this price for adherence to the Axis bloc.

American diplomatic quarters said the amount of Yugoslav funds in the United States would "comfortably cover" American investments in Yugoslavia. The last official figures estimated Yugoslavia's gold supply at \$60,000,000, of which approximately \$40,000,000 was deposited abroad, chiefly in London and New York.

The possibility that some American enterprises here might be bought by Yugoslavs with the blocked funds in New York was advanced in government quarters. This was done in Rumania with the purchase of the American-owned telephone company.

A considerable number of Yugoslav bond issues floated in the United States long since have been written off by holders. Many have gone as low as 7 cents on the dollar.

#### **"VICTORY" IN VIENNA**

Hitler has staged many demonstrations of triumph in the Belvedere Palace in Vienna. There he confined the last Chancellor of Austria during the early weeks of his long imprisonment. There the fate of the first of a lengthening line of captive rulers shadowed forth what now we see clearly: that the tottering Austrian Republic, defended by none of its guarantors in its final struggle, was the keystone of the arch of Southeastern Europe, the broken reed on which, by a tragic irony, the existence of the succession states depended. In the Belvedere, too, Hitler carved up Rumania. There, one by one, he forced the Hungarians, the Slovaks and the Bulgarians to line up with the Axis, not as equal signatories of the Tripartite Pact, but as junior and inferior partners obliged to demobilize their own armies to work for Germany while turning over their territory as an encampment for German armies. Yesterday what Berlin calls the crowning act in a great diplomatic campaign took place as the Yugoslav Premier and Foreign Minister were brought into the faded yellow ballroom of the Belvedere, now the death chamber of independent states, to sign the articles of capitulation.

But how much of a triumph is this last act in the Balkan drama? If the Yugoslav pact opens the way for a military offensive against Greece, it only means that Germany is forced to fight in a theatre in which she has moved heaven and earth to avoid a fight. If Russia's go-ahead signal is intended to encourage Turkey to join Britain and Greece against Germany, it means that the Nazi-Soviet pact is severely strained and the Germans can no longer count upon the benevolent neutrality of Moscow. If Count Ciano's feelings were what they must have been as he witnessed Italy's share of the Balkan empire turned over to Germany, it means that even the Fascist Government has lost its last reason to fight Hitler's battle. And how long will the Italian people suffer and die for a Nazi conquest of Italy and the Mediterranean?

Over Yugoslavia itself the victory is even more qualified. The terms of the pact show that Belgrade had held out against the German demand for the transport of troops through Yugoslav territory. Although a secret protocol accompanying the joint declaration to this effect is supposed to provide for the passage of military and medical supplies and trains for the wounded, if German pledges are kept Yugoslavia will not be occupied like Rumania and Bulgaria. But these concessions do not



placate the people. The Belgrade line was cut again and again yesterday as reporters attempted to telephone out the story of the popular revolt against the surrender. The country seethes with indignation, ominous alike for the Government and the operation of the agreement. Clearly this is a wingless and a joyless victory, strictly enclosed within the solemn walls of the Belvedere Palace. (Editorial) *N. Y. Times*

## **SERB PEASANTS ON MARCH, YUGOSLAV UNREST SPREADS**

**Crowds Ask Arms—Opposition Leaders Are Rounded Up in Capital—City Heavily Guarded—Priests Call For Revolt—Opinion at Explosive Pitch in Central Serbia, Montenegro—Army's Stand Uncertain**

BERNE, Switzerland, March 26.—The anger aroused in Central Serbia and Montenegro when the Yugoslav Government signed the Tripartite Pact in Vienna seemed tonight to be approaching a condition of revolt at Kragujevac and Cetinje, capital of old Montenegro.

The irate peasantry of Central Serbia and the giant mountaineers of Montenegro were reported marching into their respective capitals by the thousands, demanding arms and leadership for war against the Germans who already are threatening invasion of Yugoslavia "to have it from itself."

While the secret Yugoslav police, using lists prepared weeks ago by Gestapo [secret police] agents, began rounding up Serbian patriots, komitaji leaders, opposition party members and student leaders, dissension was spreading within the capital. Eight demonstrations were under way in the outskirts of the capital and the crowds, some of them armed with clubs and small caliber pistols planned a march on the center of the city.

Steel-helmeted policemen rushed in fast trucks to "danger points" about Belgrade as evening fell. The gendarmes were posted beyond the Slavia and the upper end of Belgrade above the University Building, upon the Kralja Alexandra Bridge and the great circle at the Mostar intersection beyond "Government Row" on the Milosa Velikog.

Alarmed by the spread of dissension the government forbade the playing and singing of sectional war songs.

Reports tonight from the provinces said the authorities were attempting similar measures outside the capital but with little effect. The threat of heavy fines and jail sentences restrained most musicians in the Belgrade kafanas, but the people sang their forbidden songs with a will and without interference.

### *Resolution Being Prepared*

This correspondent learned late tonight that a resolution was being prepared by the leaders of the Serbian Patriotic Society, komitajis, the Sokols and others for presentation to Prince Regent Paul tomorrow demanding the expulsion of "the traitorous Cvetkovitch government" and immediate formation of a nationalist government.

On the even of tomorrow's Episcopal Council of the nineteen-Serbian Orthodox Missions called by the Serbian Patriarch, priests and monks appeared in the cafes late today distributing pamphlets calling upon the people to revolt. Serbian priests and monks have conspired and fought with the peasants against suppressors and invaders for nearly 200 years. The present Patriarch is a son of a komitadji leader.

Serbians from Kragujevac reported today that the Patriarch, when asked whether he approved of the nationwide demonstrations, replied

"Approve of them? I place myself at the head of them!"

Police cars were assembled about the Presidency today after the Premier and Foreign Minister had returned from Vienna. The patrol was increased about the Belgrade Terazija, the great diagonal square in the heart of the city.

### *Opinion at High Pitch*

A Yugoslav revolt, however, if it comes, seems certain to start in Central Serbia and Montenegro, where public opinion has already reached explosive pitch, according to telephoned information from eye-witnesses today.

Beginning with the arrival of the provincial editions of the Politika early yesterday exposing the true intentions of the government in a front page editorial, the Kragujevac population turned protests into action. Komitaji "cells" were organized today and small arms distributed. Road patrols were organized and ambush units formed to fight the enemy as always, in guerrilla warfare.

Down from Veliki Galatch, the jagged mountains of Montenegro, there began to pour today a serpentine stream of Montenegrin mountaineers, armed with hunting rifles and even old flint-locks, long knives, pitchforks. They marched into Podgorica, Berane and Cetinje. They gathered in the public square before the Cetinje City Hall and demanded more arms and army leadership to revolt against the Cvetkovitch government. Elsewhere in the provinces, meantime, the anti-German, anti-government demonstrations continued.

"What will the army do?" is the paramount question being asked by all civilian Yugoslavs tonight.

Some of the young army leaders have said that the army never will fire on the Yugoslav people. But foreign military experts in Belgrade insisted today that the Yugoslav Army—one of the best organized in Europe—would follow the orders of the General Staff even to put down a popular revolt.

The sentiment of the General Staff is uncertain. The War Minister, General Peter Pesitch, however, was a compromise appointee of last November when more radical elements of the army were demanding a showdown with Italy over the bombing of Bitolje and the flagrant violations of Yugoslav territory.

### *Role of Colonels Cited*

Leading military experts here say that the staff colonels and the majors will succeed to active command in most General Staff posts if it comes to war with Germany.

In Zagreb and Sarajevo students demonstrated in an orderly manner quite openly distributing pamphlets deploring the government's action; at Nish and Skoplje crowds of peasants congregated on the main squares and before the city hall calling on the government to resign and chanting Serbian marching songs.

Following Monday's disastrous demonstration at Banja Luka in which many were hurt, disturbances have been intermittently breaking out yesterday and today.

In Belgrade shortly before noon today, some 250 to 300 university students wearing British, American and Greek flags in the lapels of their blue jackets, swarmed into the great Terazija Square, chanting, singing and waving Serbian flags. Allowed to proceed momentarily they attempted to turn into Poincare Street on which is located the German Legation.

Large forces of steel helmeted police charged three times swinging their batons and slightly injuring a few of the students as well as a few impassive onlookers. Eighteen were arrested.

Another demonstration was reported planned for tonight on the campus near the Technological University. The police apparently learned of this plan for they were exceptionally active throughout the day arresting students and youth leaders in the capital and suburbs.

Another unconfirmed report late this afternoon stated that colleges and universities throughout the country would be closed for a period—variously reported for the rest of this week or until after the orthodox Easter Sunday, April 20, as a retaliatory measure for today's disturbances, which, in most cases, were traced directly to the students' instigation.

#### *Students Are Punished*

Grammar school students in a fashionable school on the outskirts of town today were punished and the school closed when two classes of students walked out of the German class and refused to attend a lecture. German is the second language in Yugoslavia.

Premier Dragisha Cvetkovitch, the Foreign Minister, Dr. Alexander Cincar-Markovitch, and their suite returned from Vienna at 9 06 A. M. today in their special train. Members of the Cabinet, Hungarian, Rumanian and Bulgarian chargés d'affaires and an impressive array of special police were on hand to greet them.

There was no flag-waving from a handful of silent spectators who were the almost continuous receivers of orders to "keep moving." The Premier and Foreign Minister, accompanied by Vice Premier Vladimir Matčhek, drove in closed cars first to the Presidency, then to the White Palace on the hill, where they were closeted with Prince Regent Paul for an hour and a half.

Later this afternoon the Premier, accompanied by M. Matčhek, returned and had another long talk with the Regent.

Thereafter, reports immediately began to circulate that several political leaders, including Branko Chubrivolitch, had been arrested. Though this could not be confirmed late this evening it was significant that none of these men were seen in their customary haunts and most of their friends had also disappeared.

Reports broadcast on foreign stations and a German radio station announced that "there were enough German soldiers" on the Yugoslav frontier to march in and "maintain order" should disturbances continue, aroused considerable resentment.

Semi-official German sources in Belgrade denied that any such statement had been made, but many listeners claim to have heard one German broadcast which, though not couched in exactly those terms, did make a reference to "sufficient German troops" being present on the frontier.

#### *Police Precautions Taken*

Police precautions in the capital are tremendous. Patrols of tin-helmeted policemen repeatedly halt automobiles, investigating their occupants before allowing them to proceed. Some are searching for arms and there are understood to have been many arrested.

Telephone and telegraph censorship is increasing in efficiency. American correspondents can still telephone abroad, though their conversations have been repeatedly cut during the day. British correspondents, however, are experiencing considerably more difficulty. They were

all called into the Press Ministry today and informed by an attaché that their copy of last night had been recorded and transcribed.

All were warned that a repetition of this "false news of opposition in the country expanding to demonstrations" would lead to their immediate expulsion. At present writing none has yet been arrested or requested to leave the country, but it is understood many expect this measure soon.

American correspondents, though still somewhat more at liberty to telephone abroad, are also working under tremendous difficulties. A frequent change of bases of operations has enabled many to reach their foreign bureaus. It has been learned from sources close to the government that many of them will be requested to leave the country in the near future—probably on grounds of spreading "false information."

#### *Army Coup Ruled Out*

An army coup is ruled out by foreign military attachés best informed about the state of the Army.

A German invasion, they say, might follow any such action. An Army coup probably would produce General Dusan Simovitch, present Air Staff chieftain, as Commander-in-Chief of the forces of the new Yugoslav Government established—probably at Kragujevac or Cetinje—with the immediate accession of King Peter to the throne.

Prince Regent Paul is taking surprisingly little blame for the capitulation. Yet it is known that the Prince Regent is the real dictator of Yugoslavia and simply confers with the government on national issues. It was Prince Paul who acceded to the German demands and first sent M. Cvetkovitch and Dr. Cincar-Markovitch to Germany.

It was Prince Paul who received the Reich's demands from them upon their return to Belgrade. It was Prince Paul who laid the issue before the government and forced the first compromise agreement to a nonaggression pact. It was Prince Paul who received the new German demands—for signature of the Tripartite Pact and surrender upon all but two major German proposals—and it was Prince Paul who forced the patchwork and incomplete government to accept.

Finally, it was Prince Paul who gave the last instructions to the Premier and Foreign Minister and sent them on their way to Vienna and the capitulation, which has brought the country clambering to its feet with loud demands for the overthrow of the "government of surrender" and war with Serbia's ancient enemy.

#### *King Regarded Fondly*

The majority of the Serbians understand the significance of this apparent oversight in the placing of the blame.

"Prince Paul, after all," one of them said today, "is a Karageorgeovitch. Whatever he has done he still belongs to the dynasty founded upon the fighting blood of the Serbs and most of us feel that he has made this the greatest mistake of his life because he has been educated and lived too much away from the real life of us."

This is a reference to Prince Paul's Oxford education and gentle mannerisms so displeasing to Serbian elders.

King Peter is fondly regarded by most Serbs as "the son of his father" meaning that his short temper, his impatience and his imperious manner are direct throwbacks from King Alexander, who was assassinated at

Marseille in 1934. The young King, kept in the background, appears only for events of a strictly localized nature—the opening of a new hospital or the beginning of a relief fund campaign.

In the meantime he lives his private life with a group of Serbian young people in their late teens, sometimes motoring into the country on week-end visits to Avala, one of his country places. His appearance upon the highways, even when speeding at fifty miles per hour behind four motorcycle escorts, always brings cheers from the peasants, who uncap themselves and stand shouting until the car has vanished over the horizon.

## **YUGOSLAVS IN U. S. READY TO TRANSFER 25 SHIPS TO BRITAIN**

**Leaders Say Allegiance Also Will Be Shifted if the Axis Pact Results in Conflict—Embassy Told of Plan—'Free Yugoslav' Movement Here Seen Likely to Involve the Legation at Washington.**

BY GEORGE F. HORNE

Yugoslav shipping men in the United States representing some twenty-five or thirty vessels of 200,000 dead-weight tons have been organizing quietly to transfer their allegiance and assistance to Great Britain the moment Yugoslavia's treaty of adherence to the Axis brings her into conflict with Britain and her allies, it became known here yesterday.

The British already are in possession of assurance to this effect.

While operators in the Yugoslav tramp shipping business were reluctant to discuss their plans, they did not deny that such assurances had been given to authorities here and at the Embassy in Washington. It was indicated also that the impetus had been given the movement by the approbation of Yugoslav diplomatic representatives, with the inference that the Legation might break off from its government in Belgrade.

In such a move the Yugoslav Minister would follow examples established by numerous other countries that have fallen under the domination of the Reich.

### *Six Companies in Move*

There are six leading companies reportedly involved in the so-called "Free Yugoslav" movement.

Shipping men who replied to inquiries here expressed surprise that their discussions in Washington had become known.

Several emphasized the traditional friendship of the Yugoslav people with Britain and with Greece, and declared that the greater part of the Yugoslav community in the United States was antagonistic to the leadership at home and to the Axis adherence agreement signed in Vienna.

It was disclosed that a number of shipping men closely connected with Yugoslav shipping interests had come to the United States several months ago from London, presumably to direct operations in case it became necessary for Yugoslav foreign representatives to sever connections with Belgrade.

Ivan S. Ivanovic, treasurer of Combined Argosies, Inc., an agency for several leading shipping concerns, said it was true that he had been in Washington on Tuesday, but declared that his discussions had not been official, but were independent, representing only the interests of his lines.

He declared no official action was needed or would be taken as long as his country and Great Britain remained nominally friendly, as they still are.

Another shipping man, who asked to remain anonymous, said, however, that he anticipated that "in view of the fact that Yugoslavia has joined the Axis, the British will take steps."

Mr. Ivanovic said that "the bulk of Yugoslav tramp ship operators whose steamers are in United States, South American and other waters will not cooperate with the Axis."

He added that a number of Yugoslav ships were in waters of the United States but would not stay where they were located. A spokesman at the Yugoslav Consulate said that several of his country's ships were in the port of Baltimore. No one at the consulate commented on the assurances to the British, which were reported after the consulate's closing hour.

"Speaking as an individual," Mr. Ivanovic said, "I think that in the interests of humanity, liberty and of peace and freedom, as well as the interests of my own country, it is vital that we do everything in our power to help the British cause."

Frano Petrinovic, director of Petrinovic & Co., Ltd., operators of Yugoslav ships with headquarters in London, denounced the submission of his country's leaders to what he called "gangsters."

### *Nation Held Pro-British*

"We do not agree with the policy of our government," he said, "because the whole Yugoslav nation is 100 per cent pro-British and pro-American."

"Very specially we have been for years and years great friends of Greece. Our army and people would not be able to stab Greece in the back. We repudiate most sincerely and openly the treacherous act done by the Yugoslav government."

Mr. Petrinovic disclosed that he had authorized Mr. Ivanovic to pledge his adherence to the pro-British or "Free Yugoslav" movement.

Yugoslavs in New York expressed bewilderment at the latest turn in their country's fortunes, and said that as the Prince Regent was known to be strongly pro-British, they could not understand his capitulation.

How the shipping situation will aid the British will be dependent on future developments. Local operators indicated their belief that most of the ships might be in British trades before long, and that in any event the Yugoslav vessels would not be engaged in any trade that might further the Axis interests.

## **NAZIS SEE VICTORY OVER WASHINGTON**

**Yugoslav Signing of Pact Held to Be Defeat for Britain, Shared by Us—U. S. Action is Criticized—Halifax Speech Said to Have Been Attempt to Convert 'Undiluted' Americans.**

BERLIN, March 26.—The German press reaction to yesterday's ceremonies in Vienna continued to be one of jubilation over the acquisition of a fifth signatory to the three-power pact.

That Yugoslavia should have turned a deaf ear to London and Washington is counted as almost as great a victory as her enlistment in the Axis "new order." Belgrade's decision represents a lost battle for Britain, one newspaper comments, and the United States is held to share in the diplomatic defeat.

The Voelkischer Beobachter says:

"Britons and Americans had staked all on one card in the hope of convincing Yugoslavia that Germany harbored aggressive intentions. Now that Belgrade has refused to be humbugged by so transparent a swindle, it is accused of having committed treason. Through her adherence to the pact, Yugoslavia has safeguarded her vital rights, which England and America were prepared to sacrifice in keeping with the old Anglo-Saxon principle: 'It's easy to pay with other people's money.'"

#### *Reaction to Welles Report*

Reports from Washington that Sumner Welles, Under Secretary of State, had admitted American diplomatic action in Belgrade with the object of influencing the Yugoslav Government against joining the pact provoked comment in official quarters to the effect that such confessed interference, while significant, would not stand the test demanded by the Monroe Doctrine. The Reich, it was added, had taken notice of the Under Secretary's admission and would preserve for the future the right to draw the obvious conclusion.

It was emphasized that Germany would remain indifferent to any foreign reaction to Yugoslavia's decision. Her adherence to the pact was effected without reservations or equivocation, it was stressed. When asked what effect it would have on the position of Greece, the official reply was that Germany did not consider Greece "a suitable objective for its diplomacy at present."

Viscount Halifax's speech to the Pilgrims in New York last night is believed here to have been timed to fit the present European scene. It is designated "a command speech" on orders from Prime Minister Winston Churchill and intended to divert attention from the visit to Berlin of the Japanese Foreign Minister, Yosuke Matsuoka.

British war and peace aims, as enunciated by the British Ambassador, have a familiar ring, says one comment, in that they recall President Wilson's pronouncement in 1918. That the British impression of a "new world order" should have been proclaimed at a time when the striking force of the three-power pact is asserting itself is conclusive evidence, says the Hamburger Fremdenblatt, of the pact's moral effect on nations.

#### *Sees Conversion Attempt*

That Lord Halifax's "Pax Britannica" should be proclaimed on American soil, the paper continues, is evidence of a desire to convert those Americans who still prefer to contemplate matters with the aid of "undiluted American thinking."

The recipe propounded by Lord Halifax is not different from that swallowed by the German people in 1918, it was observed today, and its after effects are still fresh in German memory, "Dawes plans, Rhineland occupation and all the various methods of political and economic enslavement."

#### **YUGOSLAV ENVOY IN LINE**

BERLIN, March 26 (AP).—In a ceremony scarcely less spectacular than those for visiting royalty, Foreign Minister Yosuke Matsuoka of Japan was welcomed here today for conversations with Germany's leaders. There were suggestions that the United States lend-lease law would be thoroughly studied.

At the station to receive Mr. Matsuoka were the top men of the Nazi Government and party—save only Adolf Hitler himself and Reich Marshal Hermann Goering. On hand, too, in shiny top hats, were representatives of the five little Axis partners—Slovakia, Hungary, Rumania, Bulgaria and Yugoslavia.

Mr. Matsuoka was quoted in an interview today as saying he became convinced in the solitude of a long fishing trip that Britain and the United States would always oppose Japanese progress in the Far East.

#### **YUGOSLAV REVOLT URGED BY BRITAIN**

**Amery, Secretary for India, Broadcasts Plea for Stand Against Axis Pact—Warns of Nazis' Threat—Butler Reports to Commons on Accord—Sees Way Opened for Hitler's Domination.**

LONDON, March 26 (UP) —The British Government tonight broadcast an appeal to the Yugoslav masses, already demonstrating against Germany, to resist "the betrayal of your honor and independence" and prevent ratification of Yugoslavia's adherence to the Axis alliance.

The provocative appeal was broadcast by Lieut. Col. Leopold S. Amery, Secretary of State for India, although the press asserted editorially that a Yugoslav revolt might give Adolf Hitler a pretext to send in troops.

Mr. Amery told the Yugoslav people in his broadcast that "it is not too late" for them to save their nation from Herr Hitler's clutches.

"Your government is democratic and it cannot claim the right to sign away the honor and independence of 16,000,000 people against their will," he said.

#### *Urges Referendum on Pact*

"If the people clearly show that accession to the Axis pact is regarded by them as a betrayal of their honor and independence then surely it is the duty of the government to consult the people before the pact is ratified.

"It is not too late for that. The whole future of Yugoslavia is on razor's edge.

"Will Yugoslavia sell her honor and liberty for a German promise? You may have been told that the concession Hitler demanded was only a small one. But when has he ever been satisfied with a first concession?"

Mr. Amery pointed that in the World War the heroism of the Serbs won the admiration of the world and asked if the Yugoslavs were going to be content to leave that glory to the Greeks alone and be classed, along with Rumanians and Bulgarians, as "second-class men who followed the Germans because they dared not face them in the field."

"Will you let your people become once more a subject race?" he asked.

Serb-Croatian broadcasts have been increased from forty-five minutes to seventy minutes a day and a further ten minutes will be added.

#### **COMMONS RECEIVES REPORT**

LONDON, March 26—The British attitude toward Yugoslavia's adherence to the German-Italian-Japanese agreement was officially expressed in the House of Commons today when Richard Austen Butler, Foreign Under-Secretary, said that adherence opened the way "to Germany's familiar methods of infiltration and intimidation which would gradually imperil the free existence of Yugoslavia as an independent State."

Mr. Butler followed the present British policy, which is to be gravely hurt but not angry with Yugoslavia and to keep relations as friendly as possible in the hope of getting information out and in until it is seen whether the Yugoslav people accept the decision of the Yugoslav Government.

Mr. Butler said that when it appeared Yugoslavia's signature to the pact was imminent a note was sent by Britain to the Yugoslav Government. This note the Foreign Under-Secretary summarized as follows:

The British had been led to believe that "no action would be taken by Yugoslavia capable of adding to the difficulties of nations upholding the cause which the British had been informed the Yugoslavs regarded as their own." The British therefore were "shocked to learn that Yugoslavia was planning to sign up with the Germans."

He went on to say that "responsibility for the results of their present decision rests squarely on the shoulders of the Yugoslavia Government." There Mr. Butler stopped, saying "the matter could not be carried further."

The rest of the parliamentary discussion covered improvement in broadcasts to Yugoslavia. Alfred Duff Cooper, Information Minister, said he was satisfied the British broadcasts were reaching a large proportion of the population. It was objected that only those with short wave sets heard them and it was suggested the government had been remiss in not establishing a medium wave station at Malta, Gibraltar and Cyprus.

The problem, Mr. Duff Cooper said, was one of finding a staff that could speak Serb-Croatian.

#### BRITISH TAKE UP POSITIONS

##### **Mechanized Units Reported Along the Vardar Valley.**

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia, March 26 (UP).—Observers at the Yugoslav southern frontier today watched British mechanized forces move into positions along the strategic Vardar Valley opposite the Yugoslav town of Guevgueli, about sixty-five miles north of Greek Salonika.

The size of the British mechanized forces reaching the Greek-Yugoslav frontier at the Vardar Valley, a natural route of invasion from the north, was not revealed but it was reported last week-end that 35,000 to 50,000 British troops were being moved up to Greece's borders with both Yugoslavia and Bulgaria.

Attention was drawn to the attitude of Nazi-occupied Bulgaria during the day by a Sofia dispatch to the afternoon newspaper *Vece*—published jointly with the semi-official morning newspaper *Vreme*—saying that Yugoslavia's limited form of adherence to the Axis was the cause of excited comment in Bulgarian political quarters.

"Especially deep impressions have been created by the fact that Germany and Italy have given formal guarantees to Yugoslavia for the integrity of her territory," the article from Sofia said.

"A deep impression also has been created in Sofia by the Axis guarantee of Yugoslav independence. This is regarded in Sofia as confirmation that Yugoslavia will be treated as an equal partner by Germany and Italy.

"At the same time, according to certain Bulgarian circles, the other members of the tri-power pact cannot say that their position is of the same character.

"The fact that the pact guarantees Yugoslavia's frontier has created surprise and astonishment in certain Bulgarian circles."

#### **ARMY OVERTHROWS PRO-AXIS YUGOSLAV REGIME: PETER IN POWER, PAUL SEIZED, 1,200,000 IN ARMS; U. S., BRITAIN PLEDGE AID; NAZIS ASK EXPLANATION**

**Belgrade is Calm—Simovitch New Premier After Staging a Swift and Bloodless Coup—Army at Key Points—Cabinet Ministers Held—Nazi Units in Bulgaria Rushed to Frontier.**

BY RAY BROCK

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia, March 27—King Peter II of Yugoslavia overthrew his Regency and the government in a lightning coup by General Dusan Simovitch and the Yugoslav Army at 2 o'clock this morning and ascended the throne of the fighting Karageorgeovitch dynasty at sunrise.

Premier Dragisha Cvetkovitch and his Ministers, including Dr. Alexander Cincar-Markovitch, were arrested. They were spirited out of their homes and apartments to the General Staff Headquarters with such rapidity that the arrests were actually complete before some of the machine guns and tanks were placed in position and the anti-tank and anti-aircraft guns set up in the streets of the capital.

(M. Cvetkovitch and his Foreign Minister, Dr. Cincar-Markovitch, were later released from their imprisonment at General Staff Headquarters and allowed to go to their homes, where they will be held in "house detention," The United Press reported.)

The blow, which fell with such suddenness that the Regency and Premier Cvetkovitch resigned within sixty minutes, seemed destined to shake all Southeastern Europe and radically alter the course of the European war.

(Yugoslav preparations for war, The Associated Press reported, are being rushed with lightning speed. More than 1,200,000 soldiers went to battle stations. From Sofia it was reported that German troops in Nazi-occupied Bulgaria were rushing toward the Yugoslav frontier).

General Simovitch stepped from the role of liberator to Premier within twenty minutes after young King Peter had taken the crown and summoned an immediate session of the new Yugoslav Government to form a policy strong enough to confront bewildered and outraged Germany.

While the Yugoslav people wildly celebrated the army coup and hailed their new King in the most moving and heartfelt demonstration of pure joy and thanksgiving that this correspondent has ever seen, the new government and the Army General Staff slashed tradition and routine to place this nation of 16,000,000 on a firmer footing.

(Prince Paul, the Regent whose government was overthrown because he chose to bow to the Axis, was arrested at Vinkovci, near the Hungarian border, The Associated Press reported).

All communications were cut. All railroad and highway traffic halted between Yugoslavia and the outside world when General Simovitch and the army struck and the suspension continued throughout the day while the army installed men of unquestioned loyalty and stability in all positions of importance.

Meantime the German colony was packing and the Italians were expected to go as army police and guerrilla komitajis roamed the capital and the provinces seeking out the Quislings, if any, and the fifth columnists.

There was little or no bloodshed. The break-off of communications within the country prevented an accurate check at first of possible casualties in the army coup and the almost incredible demonstrations of joy that followed.

This correspondent has ascertained after careful investigation, however, that the army coup in Belgrade, designed with the aid of General Boro Mirkovitch, was dispatched with such lightning swiftness and coordination that not one injury resulted.

The Cvetovitch Ministers, sought out by patrols of the army's "King's men" were spirited out of their homes and hotel apartments to the General Staff Headquarters with such amazing rapidity that the round-up actually was complete before some of the machine-gun crews and tanks were placed, and before anti-tank and anti-aircraft guns were set up in the streets of the capital.

**Americans Elated—Welles Promises Moral and Material Support to Belgrade Regime—Help to Turks Seen—Our Backing Believed to Await Only Their Word They Will Resist Axis.**

BY BERTRAM D. HULEN

WASHINGTON, March 27—The coup d'état in Yugoslavia and the establishment of a pro-British Cabinet in Belgrade were followed immediately by a promise of the United States to the new government of material aid under the lease-lend bill and moral support. News of the change in regimes, which was received with deep satisfaction by this government, was widely welcomed in the United States, the new Belgrade government was informed.

This message of encouragement and support, which coincided with the British pledge of all possible aid, was communicated by the State Department through Arthur Bliss Lane, the United States Minister in Belgrade. It was given also to Constantin Fotitch, the Yugoslav Minister here, who conferred with Sumner Welles, Acting Secretary of State.

*Message to New Regime*

At his press conference, Mr. Welles said Mr. Lane had been instructed to state more or less the following to the new Yugoslav Government:

The information that has been received has been widely welcomed in the United States as a matter for self-congratulation to every liberty-loving man and woman. In accordance with the terms of the lease-lend bill, the President is, of course, enabled in the interest of the national defense of the United States to render effective material assistance to nations seeking to preserve their independence and integrity against aggression.

Not only was this looked upon in diplomatic circles as a deep penetration by the United States into the politics of the Balkans, but it was learned also that moves were under way within this government looking toward the shipment of war materials, including airplanes to Turkey in case that country should become involved on the side of Britain.

The Turkish Government has had an application for various war supplies before this government for seven months but until recently had been able to get little if any action. With the development of the new situation in the Balkans, United States officials have turned with interested attention to this Turkish request.

It is regarded as certain here that Turkey will obtain this material only if President Roosevelt is convinced that she will resist Axis overtures. It is certain, moreover, that the advice of the British will be a controlling factor in the final decision.

The Yugoslav coup was looked upon here as constituting a repudiation of the Axis, but officials were not prepared to estimate what it would lead to in the way of complicating the Balkan puzzle. The next move they assumed, was up to Reichsfuehrer Hitler.

This attitude of awaiting further developments was reflected by Mr. Welles when he was asked if the United States would rescind the order freezing Yugoslav credits in excess of \$50,000,000 in the United States. The order was issued Tuesday after Yugoslavia had adhered to the Axis. Mr. Welles dismissed the question for the time being, saying that it would be premature to make a statement.

The State Department was said not to have any report from Belgrade today, but the Yugoslav Minister, who is known as strongly anti-axis, was informed by Nomello Nincic, the new Foreign Minister, that the new government had taken over and would preserve peace and order. M. Fotitch at once pledged his loyalty and sent the following message of congratulation to King Peter II:

"In this fateful moment, in which our people have found in Your Majesty their national leader, I beg Your Majesty kindly to accept in behalf of all the royal representatives and myself the expressions of deepest devotion, loyalty and wishes for a long and happy reign.

At the same time I am happy to interpret to Your Majesty the feelings of all Yugoslavs in this country who, in these trying moments, were gathered around the royal representatives and who today greet with joy Your Majesty's ascent to the noble throne of the Karageorgevitches.

*See Independence Proved*

M. Fotitch said that the establishment of the new government was symbolic of Yugoslav national dignity and independence, and that his country must now be regarded as independent rather than as an Axis dependency.

He felt certain that the government would "have above all as its purpose the preservation of peace, and the national dignity, sovereignty and independence." He pointed out that the new Cabinet represented all major elements in Yugoslavia; that is, the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes.

His legation staff, the Minister said, and all the consulates in this country were "entirely loyal" to the new government. There are Yugoslav consulates general in New York and Chicago and honorary consulates in Cleveland, Pittsburgh, New Orleans and Astoria, Ore.

M. Fotitch circulated among the half-million persons of Yugoslav blood in this country, including those born in Yugoslavia and others whose parents were born there, this message:

Our fatherland has proved once again all the high traditions of the Yugoslav people. Those traditions are led by one sacred thought: honor, dignity and freedom of the country.

Today, strongly united, the people of Yugoslavia stand by His Majesty, King Peter II, son of the great King Alexander, the unifier.

Today I am happy to announce to Yugoslav people residing in the United States that text of a telegram I have communicated to His Majesty, the King. (Here the text of his congratulatory telegram to King Peter was included.)

Communicating the text of his telegram to you, I am emotionally thankful to our people in the United States for their feelings and the devotion they have expressed so many times during these trying hours.



### *Believed Active in Coup*

Mr. Fotitch, as a strong anti-Axis diplomat and an influential figure in his own country, is understood to have had much to do with the preparation of the coup d'état through communications with the leaders. If he had the cooperation of United States officials, that was kept a closely guarded secret. To most officials here word of the coup came as a surprise.

The Minister was hopeful yesterday that a new government would be established in Belgrade before the agreement with the Axis was ratified, but at least some to whom he privately voiced his views thought that he was over-optimistic.

However, Senator Claude Pepper, Democrat, of Florida, an ardent interventionist, said that passage of the lease-lend bill "undoubtedly strengthened the backbone of the Yugoslavia nation and encouraged it to fight for its liberties."

The Yugoslav upheaval, he thought, could be attributed to "the forthright and courageous attitude of the United States in stating its determination to support the struggle for human liberties and the dignity of man, regardless of who likes or dislikes its stand."

He predicted that "it won't be long before all nations, large and small, will resist aggression of the hideous totalitarian powers which want to crush the life out of democracy."

The United States Minister had been active in Belgrade calling the attention of officials to the implications of this country's policy of all-out aid to Britain, and other democracies and all countries that resisted aggression. His efforts were reported to have ceased on Sunday when he learned definitely that Yugoslavia would adhere to the Axis.

### *Hitler's Next Move Awaited*

Observers are looking for the next move to come from Herr Hitler. They wonder whether it will be in the extreme form of an ultimatum or the moderate device of letting matters take their course for a time. They are satisfied that, whatever he decides to do, he cannot afford to wait long, since his prestige is at stake.

Herr Hitler has great military power concentrated in Roumania and Bulgaria, some estimates placing the force at close to 1,000,000 men. But it is pointed out that he waited for disorders to appear in Rumania and then took advantage of them to dominate the country completely.

Officials are convinced that the Nazis do not want to establish another front on the Balkans. On the other hand, while there were reports of division in Yugoslavia during the period that joining the Axis was under deliberation, and to the point that Belgrade did not mobilize Croats and Slovans, but only Serbs, first reports now are that there is national unity and the Army is supporting the new government.

Although some observers felt that Russia's position might be affected by a German violation of Yugoslav frontiers, officials apparently did not expect Moscow to go as far as to move to the defense of Yugoslavia. It is believed possible, however, that in view of the new situation the Nazis may become more conciliatory toward the Soviet Union. But little of the old allegiance to Russia as traditional defenders of all Slavs seems to have persisted among the Yugoslavs.

Constantine A. Oumansky, the Soviet Ambassador, conferred today with Mr. Welles. Although the meeting was arranged yesterday to discuss some details in their current

conversations on commercial and trade relations, the conference presumably offered an opportunity to exchange views on the new Balkan situation.

### **LANE AWAITS AN INTERVIEW**

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia, Friday, March 28—United States Minister Lane said early today he had "not yet been able to carry out my instructions from Washington, but expect to do so very soon" at a meeting with Yugoslavia's new Premier.

Mr. Lane told of an enthusiastic demonstration in progress in front of the United States Legation.

He commented that communications had been "rather difficult" yesterday. He said he had heard nothing of German troop movements and declined comment on other angles of the coup that overthrew the Yugoslav pro-Axis government.

### **UPSET IN THE BALKANS**

BY HANSON W. BALDWIN

Yugoslavia has upset the German plan of conquest.

But just how badly she has upset it remains to be seen. The revolt yesterday was undoubtedly anti-German; Germany, if she is to dominate the Balkans, may now have to fight for her gains.

And fight hard! For the Serbs were considered by the Germans the best fighters that faced them during the World War, and if Adolf Hitler's legions push across the Yugoslav frontier there seems little doubt now that they will meet stern opposition, an opposition that may have an increasing measure of success the deeper the Germans penetrate toward the wild and mountainous regions of Southern Yugoslavia.

But this eventuality may never occur. Yugoslavia may be by-passed, Greece attacked via the Struma rather than the Vardar. Whether or not the Yugoslavs then would march is not clear, but for their own salvation it seems likely that they would try to remain neutral.

### *Weakness and Strength*

If Yugoslavia should be drawn into actual war, she has a number of weaknesses that tend to offset her strength, though not to nullify it. First, she is small—16,200,000 people; second, she is divided. There is a strong pro-German sentiment in the country, though it is definitely in the minority, and the Croats are probably not as determined in their opposition to Herr Hitler as are the Serbs. Third, Yugoslavia, is backward industrially; she must depend upon the outside world for her supply of arms and material, and she is almost cut off from the outside world save by a few railroads and roads to Greece. Fourth, she is lamentably weak in modern equipment, particularly in planes.

But her strengths are considerable. Much of her terrain is rugged and wild, so difficult as to defy effective use of great numbers of tanks. And her army is made up of stalwart human material, used to war and hardship, determined in their valor.

Yugoslavia has a considerable army, probably—all things considered—the strongest in the Balkans, unless the Croatian-Serbian friction or the dissension over the present situation should divide it. She can probably muster 1,400,000 men—but cannot put any such number into the field simultaneously. She has been, however, virtually on

a war footing since the European war began, and at one time mobilized as many as 900,000 to 1,000,000 men.

In peacetime her army is organized on the basis of sixteen infantry divisions and two cavalry divisions (divisions of varying strengths). In full wartime mobilization, however, she might be able to organize a total of twenty to thirty divisions (or slightly more)—750,000 to 900,000 effectives. The normal Yugoslav divisions is large—about 25,000 men—but some of them contain only two or three infantry regiments instead of four and are smaller in size.

### *Leadership Is Good*

Equipment of these troops is not too good, though there are sufficient rifles and a considerable number of machine guns and field artillery pieces, though these are of varied makes. The army is well supplied with pack artillery and knows how to handle it and to fight the guerrilla type of warfare so effective in mountainous country. Officer leadership is good, and the general staff distinguished itself in the World War.

Yugoslavia is quite weak in the air, perhaps no more than 600 to 800 planes, many of them quite old, and with only a few new British, Italian and German models.

The anti-aircraft material is quite inadequate. In the beginning of 1937 there were only about sixteen anti-aircraft batteries in the entire army, a number that has since been increased, but not markedly so.

The Yugoslav Navy has about 9,750 tons of fighting ships, mostly small. Her most powerful vessel is the 1,880-ton flotilla leader Dubrovnik. She has an old coast-defense ship or cruiser—the ancient Dalmacija, which was the former German Niobe. She has three destroyers, four submarines, five minelayers, eight torpedo boats and miscellaneous vessels. Naval stations or bases are at Sebenico, Spolato and the Bay of Cattaro. There are about 6,000 men in the Navy.

Despite her weaknesses, Yugoslavia could add an element of considerable strength to the foes of Germany, and if the German armies invade that mountainous country Yugoslavia may well be overrun, but—barring dissension in her army—the Germans will know they have run into a hornets' nest.

## **HOW THE COUP IN YUGOSLAVIA WAS EFFECTED BY AIR FORCE**

BY RAY BROCK

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia, March 27—The story of the Yugoslav events of today has been delayed by the severance of communications, and the day has been so crowded that the clearest report of what has happened should come chronologically. About the carefully laid plans behind the coup your correspondent knows very little tonight. As one of the first eyewitnesses to the beginning of the coup this correspondent can report that it happened like this:

In the first few minutes after 1 A. M. heavy tanks and anti-aircraft and anti-tank guns with full crews rolled out and moved at top speed to pre-arranged military vantage points throughout the sleeping capital. At about the same time picked officers of General Dusan Simovitch's Air Force were speeding to take command of anti-tank guns and machine-gun crews as fast as they reached their rendezvous.

The most strategic points included the intersections blocking the routes to the palace on the Kralja Milana, Belgrade's major thoroughfare. Heavy tanks lumbered

into position at either end. Steel-helmeted soldiers with fixed bayonets deployed about them, and then the gunner units rolled up the anti-aircraft and anti-tank guns and machine guns, which took positions sweeping the Kralja Milana and side streets.

The same procedure followed before the Skuptshtina, the Parliament, and at two other points on the broad Kralja Alexandra, Belgrade's major boulevard, and in the broad Terazija, in the heart of the city. Within forty minutes tanks and guns commanded the great circular Mostar Boulevard intersection on the route to the Dedinje hilltop and the White Palace of the Prince Regent.

The uphill avenues were lined with machine-gunners and automatic riflemen. A tank and riflemen guarded the Italian Legation. Another tank was posted to command the intersection alongside the Turkish Embassy, about 500 yards from the building housing the United States Legation and the Consulate. Still others blocked traffic arteries near the Kalemeggan Gardens, the Army caserns and the Kalemeggan Fortress of Old Turkey, which angles out over the point where the River Sava and the Danube meet.

More tanks and more guns held all major roads and highways leading into the city.

At 2 A. M. all was ready and at precisely 2 A. M. General Simovitch struck. The sleepy and bewildered Cabinet Ministers found patrols, accompanied by officers, at their doors and about their homes. Firmly but politely the commanding air force officers instructed the Ministers to dress and accompany them to General Staff Headquarters. To all questions the officers merely answered, "Come!"

### *Guard Ordered Aside*

Premier Dragisha Cvetkovitch was aroused and a patrol of "Kings Men" rushed past the guards of the Premier's spacious hilltop home and knocked on the door. Another guard barred the way. Witness's reports said the guard declared:

"The President cannot be disturbed."

"Nevertheless, disturb him," commanded the officer.

"He must not be disturbed and you cannot enter," replied the guard.

"Stand aside!" commanded the officer, whereupon the guard raised his rifle. The officer drew his pistol, pointed it at the guard's chest and repeated, "Stand aside!"

The guard stood aside.

The Premier dressed rapidly without question and accompanied his visitor to General Staff Headquarters, where other members of his Cabinet already were arriving.

At this time the coup was still a secret to almost all Belgrade. This correspondent, hurrying downtown toward the Terazija by taxicab upon whispered information from a Montenegrin friend from the kafana in the suburbs, was forced to detour five times around the guns, tanks, and machine guns.

"Against the people! Against the people!" the taxi driver was muttering, and, after the police suppression of the anti-Cvetkovitch Government demonstrations last night it must be admitted it seemed to look that way. The curious thing was the blue-coated Air Force officers commanding the green-gray uniformed tank men and gunners.

Pulling up before the Hotel Majestic the chauffeur suddenly jammed on his brakes. A heavy machine-gun lay ahead in the car's lights. Big, strapping infantrymen with bayoneted rifles at the ready stood behind it, and the gunner himself crouched behind the breach into which was fed a long belt of shining bullets. A young Air Force



captain, swinging a bayoneted rifle over his shoulder, demanded identification. He examined credentials, smiled and waved to the hotel doorway.

"Voila," he said.

To all questions the Air Force officer merely smiled and waved toward the hotel entrance. Inside at the porter's desk, as if by a miracle, the telephone still worked locally, but New York and Switzerland connections were said to be impossible.

The United States Minister, Arthur Bliss Lane, answered immediately, listed to a few available details and rang off with thanks. The British Legation did not answer. Two newspaper colleagues answered promptly and agreed to come at top speed, taking roundabout routes to see what they could see and pool information for the time when the international phone line was reopened. Then the phone went dead. It was 2:51 A. M.

Outside in the L-shaped street leading down from the Prefecture to the Hotel Majestic the taxis and private cars were piling up. Their drivers were sent home on foot or sent into the hotel or into a near-by night club for refuge. Those who were in the hotel were told that they must stay there.

The night, except for the sound of an occasional speeding car, was quite still. An Army lorry filled with armed infantrymen arrived from the direction of the Prefecture, then another and another. An Air Force staff car rolled up with three flying officers inside. There was a low colloquy with the Air Force officer in command, some laughter, and the car went on. Another staff car arrived, and there was the same procedure. Another. And another. This time there were handshakes all around, hearty laughter and a rousing good-bye.

In the little modest hotel entrance curiosity was almost bursting. The officer maintained his smiling silence, and at 3:35 A. M. a closed car appeared from the direction of the Prefecture. The interior lights were on. The car held three Air Force officers and Premier Cvetkovitch.

A groan went up from the doorway. "The government! He is making the rounds of inspection." An hour passed, during which more staff cars rolled by bound for the Prefecture.

At 4:32 a large limousine stopped at the hotel. Two huge artillery captains saluted the Air Force captain and brushed through the people in the door to the locked main entrance. The white-faced porter unlocked it.

#### *An Officer Questioned*

Somebody caught the name "Budisavljevitch."

"But why him? But why take him? He resigned—."

And somebody pointed out that Srdjan Budisavljevitch's resignation from the Ministry had started last week's Cabinet crisis. "Revenge, maybe?" Ten minutes passed. Fifteen. Then M. Budisavljevitch came out between the big officers—smiling. He entered the limousine and sped away. Now the young air force captain retreated before a barrage of questions. Five minutes passed; then he strolled over to a dark corner and accepted a cigarette.

"Merci," he said through the smoke, and then jerking his head toward the corner where the car had turned: "You know? The little one \* \* \*"

"Peter? The young King?"

"Go slow, mon cher!" He smiled, turned and then laughed.

"And all the uniforms? It's Simovitch, Air Chief."

"Douncement mais exactement!" He wheeled and stepped off the curb humming, Oj, Serbio."

There is a little known cellar passageway to a rear door in the Hotel Majestic leading into a narrow side street and on to an avenue where the taxis stand. The taxi followed the roundabout route "uptown" through the streets where early-rising Serbs walked slowly eyeing the tanks and guns with blank questioning faces. The soldiers waved the curious along with bayonets. The telephone was still dead at the United States Minister's residence.

Midday in a conference of the communications problem the missing journalists arrived.

"Arrested. Held two hours in a park for trying to pass the prefecture," they explained.

Then the telephones came to life.

There followed another ride across Belgrade in clear daylight with silent, muttering crowds about the tanks and the guns of greenish-gray under the camouflage of the morning sunlight. The Turkish and the Greek Legations were humming with life. A cheery voice answered the telephone at the British Legation.

"Who's here? Bloody well everybody! We're having champagne. Come on."

#### *Crowds Start to Assemble*

Back to the Hotel Majestic the telephones were working locally and there was coffee, then suddenly and from a distance there came that unmistakable sound of a crowd in excitement. The sound grew, expanded and took shape while windows flopped open overhead and sleepy heads appeared out of them, and jaws dropped at the sight of the soldiers and machine guns below them.

The shouting grew to a roar and emerged even as the yelling, cheering, screaming mass of men, women and students and schoolboys swept into view, arms lifted, mouths open and the words almost visible in the morning sunlight.

"Petra Drugy! ("Peter Our Friend") Petra Drugy! Petra Drugy!"

All around now the far and near echo of more voices grew and swelled until it seemed to beat solidly against the fronts of the big buildings in the long diagonal Terazia. From the two main avenues and from every side street the masses of people poured in and converged, separated and converged again until the huge diagonal held 6,000, later 10,000, 30,000, 40,000 shouting, chanting, singing Serbian men and women.

Huge Greek and American flags were held high over head. There was a crash and the sound of splintering glass in the Spomenik off the Terazia as the crowds smashed the windows of the German Travel Bureau. Through double rings of army guards upon the Terazia they pressed forward until there was another louder crash and the windows of the Italian Travel Bureau fell in splinters in the street. The roar that went up sounded like one in Madison Square Garden when it witnesses a knockout punch.

From the broad window ten stories above the Terazia at the lower end this correspondent watched with others during the next three hours as Belgrade awakened its new government and its new King. Almost drowned in the surflike roar in the streets as the radio over the corner repeated King Peter's proclamation:

"Serbs! Croats! Slovenes!"

"I have decided to take over the Royal Crown \* \* \* All the Regents have resigned. \* \* \* The army is faithful to me \* \* \* Simovitch is in charge. \* \* \*"

Up the street 30,000 voices rose in the war song of the beloved Chetniks, the song which only last night was banned by the Cvetkovitch government after the capitulation.

to Germany. The song was taken up by a troop of cavalry starting its way through the multitude and the riders paused only to accept handfuls of mimosa from the crowds and tucked the bouquets into the bridle. There followed a battalion of cavalry and an infantry regiment in full pack and steel helmets wheeling off the Terazia and down the long hill toward the railroad station. Then the tanks came on clattering and roaring.

### GERMANS DEMAND NEW BELGRADE TIE

**Reply as to Regime's Policy on Axis Pledge Sought at Once, Berlin Indicates.**

BERLIN, March 27 (UP).—Germany has demanded that the new Yugoslav military regime make clear "without delay" whether it intends to support the Axis powers and the previous government's adherence Tuesday to the "Three-Power Alliance," it was stated reliably tonight.

The German demand presumably was made when the German Minister, Belgrade, Viktor Von Heeren, called during the day on the new Yugoslav Premier, General Dusan Simovitch.

Germany expected a reply by noon tomorrow to its demand, it was said, but it was not indicated whether a time limit had been placed on the message for clarification of the new Belgrade regime's position.

Informed Nazi quarters said they were "confident" that the Simovitch government would answer in favor of the Axis, because the Yugoslav putsch, they asserted, "appears to have been due primarily to internal political considerations."

German quarters said what had occurred in Yugoslavia was a "military putsch," throwing out of power Premier Dragisha Cvetkovitch and Foreign Minister Alexander Cincar-Markovitch, who only two days ago journeyed to Vienna to sign adherence to the German-Italo-Japanese pact.

The Yugoslav legation here announced that 17-year-old King Peter had proclaimed himself monarch in his own right, replacing the regency headed by Prince Paul and driven from power along with the government in the military uprising.

Authorized Nazi quarters refused to comment on the Yugoslav developments, "owing to lack of authentic information from Belgrade." The early editions of Friday morning newspapers in Berlin carried headlines: "Military Coup d'Etat in Yugoslavia—Boy King Peter Takes Over Royal Power."

The Yugoslav delegation said that "countless telegrams" were arriving at the White Palace in Belgrade from all parts of the country expressing loyalty to King Peter II.

Complete order prevailed throughout Yugoslavia, German reports asserted.

### GERMAN THREAT IMPLIED

BERLIN, Friday, March 28 (AP).—Unofficial German political circles voiced the opinion today that Yugoslavia knew perfectly well that for her now to renounce the Axis pact would be tantamount to giving the "Go" sign to Germany to march in to compel her to live up to it.

It was understood by these circles that the German Government, which last night demanded an explanation of Yugoslavia, left no doubt that the new government must come through with an unequivocal statement of its position on the pact.

Refusal to regard the pact as binding, it was intimated, might lead directly to dissolution of Yugoslavia.

Hungary, Bulgaria, Rumania, Italy and Germany might all claim slices of the kingdom if it declined to "play ball," it was said.

### CHURCHILL CALLED PREMATURE

BERLIN, March 27—Pending complete clarification of the political situation at Belgrade, no comment was forthcoming from official German quarters tonight.

Well-informed quarters here seemed to assume that Yugoslavia's commitments in her adherence to the Three-Power Pact were valid and binding.

Confidence was expressed, moreover, that British Prime Minister Winston Churchill's expression of satisfaction about Yugoslav developments was premature.

### CHURCHILL SAYS BRITAIN WILL SEND 'ALL AID' IF THE YUGOSLAVS FIGHT

BY ROBERT P. POST

LONDON, March 27—Today's news of the coup d'état in Yugoslavia came to the British as rain in the midst of a drought. "Early this morning Yugoslavia found her soul," Prime Minister Winston Churchill told a Conservative party meeting, and in those words he summed up the feeling of most Britons.

At another meeting Mr. Churchill said that it was proper to cherish the hope that Yugoslavia now had a government fit to defend the country.

"We shall give all the aid we can to those who are fighting to defend their freedom and their native land," he said, "and I am sure that the President of the United States will be actuated by the same generous feelings of sustaining those who are fighting to be free. According to the laws and the Constitution of the United States—and, after all, as a great democratic leader he must move with the whole march of the nation—I am certain that his sympathies and aid will also be extended in full measure to the Serbian people."

In his first speech—before the annual meeting of the central council of the National Union of Conservative and Unionist Associations—Mr. Churchill declared that this country had never been so strong and hopeful and that Britain could save herself for the time being, but he added that "it will take the combined efforts of the whole English-speaking world to save mankind and Europe from the menace of Hitlerism and open again the paths of progress."

The general feeling here was more than one of satisfaction at the obvious strategic advantages to Britain in the Yugoslav defiance of Reichsmuehrer Hitler. It was something deeper. For the first time, as one prominent member of Parliament expressed it, a European nation has risen against a "Quisling government."

### Official London Elated

There were smiles all over official London today over this small nation's repudiation of an attempt by its government to join the Axis. In short, in the view here, the Yugoslavs, in the teeth of all German propaganda, have planted their bet on Britain to win.

Of course, the same thing could be said about Greece, but Greece was fighting Italy. This is the first time that the ideas for which the British are fighting have been a

cause of revolt in the face of German demands. In many ways, it is even better from the British point of view than if the Yugoslav Government had stood up to Germany. The British had been hoping that a revolt would take place. But while some persons here had been optimistic about Yugoslavia, there was a large school of thought that said Yugoslavia was through. Now these observers have been proved wrong and while it is early yet to make any predictions, it would appear that the Yugoslavs are quite ready to go to war with Germany, Italy, Bulgaria and anybody else except Britain. There is good evidence here that this statement is true

#### *Attack on Italians Seen*

Indeed, the British would not be surprised if the Yugoslavs within a short time were attacking the Italians in Albania from the rear.

It may be that the British hopes on the Yugoslavs—their action is characterized for the moment as a purely internal revolt—will not be immediately fulfilled. But all evidence here tends to show that no matter what the Germans do they are now going to have to fight some of the best soldiers in Europe.

The revolting Yugoslavs took this step, it would appear, with full knowledge of what it meant. If the Germans, as seems possible, decide to go into Yugoslavia to restore internal order, they will probably find a fight on their hands.

The British believe that the Yugoslav coup must inevitably have important reactions on both Greece and Turkey. In the case of Greece, that country is already heartened to intensified resistance against the Italians, and the Yugoslav action will probably serve to strengthen the Greeks against the German threat. In the case of Turkey, the Yugoslav coup will probably, in the British view, make the Turks even more determined to stand up against the German Army if it attacks them and it may even lead to extension of the Turkish "zone of security" to include areas outside Turkish territory.

The revolt pleased the British particularly because of its timing. The Germans, in the British view, thought everything was going to be all right with the Yugoslavs, and now they have been caught off base. The time of the revolt was particularly good, in British eyes, because the Germans had timed the Yugoslav surrender to coincide with the arrival of Yosuke Matsuoka, Japanese Foreign Minister, in Berlin. If Germany hailed the Yugoslav signature as "a diplomatic Dunkerque" for Britain, what, ask the British, are they going to tell the Japanese statesman when that signature has been repudiated.

It may even be that the British are preparing something more direct to show Mr. Matsuoka to prove that all the initiative is not on the German side in this war.

#### *Churchill Lists Victories*

Mr. Churchill's reference today to the role that should be played by "the whole English-speaking world" came at a significant point in a speech that dealt largely with a review of the course of the war since Mr. Churchill became Prime Minister. It followed directly after he had capped a list of British victories with the assertion that there was another supreme event, more blessed than victories—"the rising of the spirit of the great American nation and its ever more intimate association with the common cause."

Much of that has been accomplished, he added, by the sentiment "aroused in American breasts at the spectacle of courage and devotion shown by the simple, ordinary

folk of this country in standing up to the fire of the enemy."

In his review Mr. Churchill stressed the importance of national unity. He explained that it was in furtherance of national unity that he had refrained from giving an outline of war and peace aims. He said every one knew "quite well what we are fighting about," but if any one attempted to predict peace terms for a period that was unforeseeable it would militate against Britain's present efforts.

#### *Pleased by Roosevelt's Accord*

Mr. Churchill expressed pleasure that President Roosevelt was of the same opinion, even though neither he nor Mr. Roosevelt had ever mentioned the subject in their exchanges. For the time being, Mr. Churchill asserted, the defeat of Hitlerism is a sufficient war aim and it will open the door to every "worthy" peace aim.

The Prime Minister listed British victories as follows: The Royal Air Force's frustration of a German invasion; the destruction of Italian power and the Italian empire in Africa; the defense of the Nile Valley and with it the removal of almost all—"and the rest soon"—of the stains that he said the Italians had made on African soil.

Mr. Churchill then proceeded to strike a note of caution with the warning that the grim campaign in the Atlantic was yet to be fought and won so that every form of United States aid might come to Britain in ever-increasing volume. He said the country must be ready to encounter reverses as well as victories and he called on the British people to keep their spirit "so constant that we can derive from misfortune added strength."

"We cannot tell how long the road will be. We only know it will be stony, painful and uphill and that we shall march along it to the end."

"And now, here at this moment, I have great news for you and the whole country."

"Early this morning the Yugoslav nation found its soul. A revolution has taken place in Belgrade and Ministers who yesterday signed away the honor and freedom of their country are reported to be under arrest."

"This patriotic movement arises from the wrath of a valiant and warlike race at their country being betrayed by the weakness of its rulers and foul intrigues of the Axis powers."

"We may, therefore, cherish hope (I speak, of course, only on information which has reached me) that a Yugoslav Government will be formed worthy to defend the freedom and the integrity of their country."

"Such a government, in its brave endeavor, will receive from the British Empire—and I doubt not in its own way, from the United States—all possible aid and succor."

"The British Empire and its Allies will make common cause with the Yugoslav nation and we will continue to march and strive together until complete victory is won."

#### **BRITISH DECEIVED BY PAUL FOR YEARS**

**Yugoslav Regent Said to Have Viewed Hitler as a Means of Perpetuating Own Power.**

BY PERTINAX

WASHINGTON, March 27.—The British Government and the Imperial General Staff have been successful in their gamble. They were bold enough to land an expeditionary force in Greece on the assumption that Yugoslavia would not grant the Nazis a right of way along the Vardar

Valley They have won, and, what is more remarkable, they have won even though they staked the wrong horse. Indeed, nearly to the last they trusted Regent Prince Paul, whom, for years, Anthony Eden, British Foreign Secretary, has regarded as a personal friend.

The conclusion is inescapable that Prince Paul was, in Yugoslavia, the embodiment of the spirit of self-abandonment and acceptance of the worst, that nobody can replace him in that respect, and that but for him the martial valor and the patriotism of peasants and soldiers would have asserted themselves long ago.

A grievous mistake of French and British public men is that they did not open their eyes to that fact in the crucial years. The Belgrade revolution ought not to have taken place on March 27, 1941, but in March, 1939, when it became known that Prince Paul had agreed, underhand, to the invasion of Albania by the Italian Army.

Little encouragement would have been necessary then to bring a revolt about. That Prince Paul for so long did make the Western powers his dupes must be taken as his most serious claim to statesmanship.

At heart, he was a "White Russian." He had the outlook and most of the prejudices of one who had lost the world in which he would have liked to live. When, on the proposal of Nicolas Titulescu of Rumania, the council of the Balkan Entente recommended in February, 1935, that diplomatic recognition should be extended to Soviet Russia, Prince Paul was bent on destroying that system of mutual protection.

Princess Helene, Prince Paul's mother-in-law, exclaimed that she meant to kill herself on the steps of the palace rather than witness the appointment of a Yugoslav Minister to the Soviet. Between Berlin and Moscow, as he put it, how was it possible for him to waver?

The Nazis kept Prince Paul under close watch through his brother-in-law, Count Torine, a Bavarian nobleman. The three beautiful Greek Princesses (one of them married to Prince Paul) were efficient appeasers. However, in fairness to Princess Olga, it must be said that she is believed to have stood on the right side during the last crisis. The heroism of her own land had told upon her.

Lately, according to close observers (others do not agree) a very special set of calculations acted upon Prince Paul's mind. He was wont to say after he had been installed in the Regency in 1934: "I hold the mandate of the President of a republic. I shall not serve longer than seven years." It gradually dawned upon him that, after all, he might perpetuate himself in office provided he became a satellite of the Reichsfuehrer Hitler.

But a seldom-matched duplicity was required to enable Prince Paul to translate into concrete deeds of far-reaching import those designs and impulses of his that, normally, would not have made the Yugoslavs swerve from their historical course.

He was a master in the art of putting up false appearances. For instance, at the very moment he vetoed French Premier Léon Blum's proposal to the Balkan Entente for the conclusion of a pact of military assistance he was careful to send him a gift of precious books. He was loud in his protestation of devotion to Britain. Yet he was an Anglomane, appreciative of Savile Row's tailors, rather than an Anglophile.

The Germans will not easily find another Prince Paul.

## YUGOSLAV HISTORY FREEDOM CHAPTER

**Serbia Led Way in Revolts Against Domination by Turks and Austrians—Four Kings Were Slain—Present Monarch, Peter, 17 Years Old, Was Taught by His Father to Work Hard.**

The Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes, later officially named "The Kingdom of Yugoslavia," came into existence on Dec. 1, 1918, with King Peter I of Serbia as its ruler. Serbia, a vassal principality of Turkey for almost five centuries, gained its independence through the Treaty of Berlin in 1878, and after the Balkan wars enlarged her boundaries in 1913 by the annexation of Old Serbia.

Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria was assassinated on June 28, 1914, at Sarajevo. Austria-Hungary laid the murder of her heir to the throne to a Serbian plot and presented to Belgrade an ultimatum. Its non-acceptance brought about the World War, during which the kingdom was overrun and suffered tremendously. But the Serbian Army smashed through the Salonika front and recaptured Belgrade on Nov. 3, 1918.

Upon the dissolution of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, National Assemblies in Croatia, Slovenia, Dalmatia, Bosnia, Herzegovina, Vojvodina and the former independent State of Montenegro voted union in one common and independent State, together with Serbia.

### *Formation of Regency*

King Peter I died in 1921 and was succeeded by his son, Alexander I, who was assassinated in Marseille by a terrorist after a rule of thirteen years. His sons, Crown Prince Peter, then 11 years old, was proclaimed King on Oct. 11, 1934. According to his father's will a regency of three members was established to rule until the coming of age of the King. It included Prince Paul, cousin of the murdered sovereign.

Paul, a scholarly person, had until then taken no part in politics. He was born in St. Petersburg (now Leningrad) in 1893, the son of Prince Arsene, who spent most of his life in Paris and was divorced from his wife, the Russian Princess Aurora Demidoff, in 1896. Prince Paul spent his boyhood in the Russian capital and at the age of 17 was sent to England for his education. His studies there were interrupted by the first and second Balkan wars and the World War, during which he fought with the Serbian Army. He returned to Oxford in 1919.

Prince Paul married Princess Olga of Greece in Belgrade in 1923, and the Duke of York acted as his best man. The young couple returned to England, where their first children, Prince Alexander and Prince Nicholas, were born. A third child, Princess Elizabeth, was born in Belgrade in 1936.

Prince Paul was said to have been in favor of ending the dictatorial system instituted by King Alexander. But while he admired British democracy, inner political turmoil and European tension marked his regency and prevented him from carrying out his aims. Under the Stoyadinovitch regime the country passed through a period of economic stability but considerable political discontent. It was under this premiership that Yugoslavia was led from the democratic toward the totalitarian States. Germany's economic and financial grip grew steadily; an agreement was concluded with Italy, and there was a considerable rapprochement with Hungary.

The first indications that Belgrade was likely to quit the Balkan Entente and seek inclusion in the Axis came in April, 1939, when the Yugoslav Foreign Minister Alexander Cincar-Markovitch went to Rome. A few weeks later Prince Paul and Princess Olga received a royal welcome in the Italian capital. Another month and Chancellor Hitler guaranteed Yugoslavia's borders during Prince Paul's state visit in Berlin.

Shortly before the outbreak of the present European conflict it became known that Belgrade had refused German and Italian demands for "benevolent" neutrality involving use of Yugoslav railroads and Axis supervision of the country's economic and military centers in the event of a European war. Yugoslavia "neutral" position during the first year of the conflict remained virtually unchanged until the theatre of war shifted toward south-eastern Europe and the designs of Berlin and Rome centred upon the Balkans.

### *King Is 17 Years Old*

King Peter II was born on Sept 6, 1923. His mother, Queen Mary, is a daughter of the late King Ferdinand of Rumania and a sister of former King Karol of Rumania. His grandmother was the late Queen Marie of Rumania. So, while on his father's side he is of pure Serbian blood, he has through his maternal ancestry strong ties with the royal family of Great Britain. He has two brothers, Prince Tomislav, 13, and Prince Andrew, 12.

Of King Peter's nine predecessors on the Serbian throne, four were murdered and two were forced to abdicate. The founder of the dynasty was Kara-George Petrovitch (Black George), who, in 1804, raised the first Serbian revolution against Turkish rule. He was murdered in 1817. In 1842 his second son, Alexander, became reigning Prince but had to abdicate sixteen years later. When King Alexander of the Obrenovitch dynasty was murdered, he was succeeded by King Peter Karageorgevitch.

King Peter was trained to kingship from his earliest childhood. A motto, which his father wrote for him, hung over his bed: "A prince must work as hard as any other boy." Before he was sent to England for his education he was educated privately at the palace together with elected high school boys, who, his father insisted, should treat him as an equal.

His English tutor, C. C. Parrott, accompanied him to Sandroyd Preparatory School at Cobham, Surrey, in 1934. Shortly afterward, his father was assassinated. He left immediately for Belgrade, where he was cheered by vast crowds. In May, 1936, he appeared for the first time in public to watch a military parade in Belgrade. But he spent much of his time at Bled, Summer residence of the royal family. Described as a shy and sensitive boy, he was about to finish his classical education.

### **YUGOSLAVS SHOUT FOR WAR ON AXIS**

**Belgrade Crowds Wreck Nazi and Fascist Travel Bureaus and Overturn Automobiles—German 'Tourists' Flee—Citizens of Reich and Italy Assaulted—Mussolini and Hitler Are Ridiculed.**

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia, March 27 (AP).—Thousands of demonstrators in Belgrade shouted themselves hoarse from dawn until late tonight for war against the Axis.

They wrecked the German and Italian travel agencies, smashing large plate-glass windows, strewing furniture and papers about, tearing Nazi and Fascist flags to shreds and trampling pictures of Reichsfuehrer Hitler and Premier Mussolini. At the German office, a crowd of nearly 10,000 shouted derisive threats for hours after their leaders displayed six pistols that they said had been found in desks there.

The same wildly excited demonstrators attacked and battered Germans and Italians in the streets.

The most prominent German victim was the assistant Nazi air attaché, who was reported by the German Legation to be seriously injured. The German Minister, Victor von Heeren, made an angry diplomatic protest.

Several German automobiles bearing swastikas were overturned and wrecked. The German Legation warned its entire colony to evacuate as soon as possible.

Crowds composed jingles about preferring "death to the Axis," which they roared forth with typical Serbian gusto. They carried caricatures of Herr Hitler and Signor Mussolini.

Germans who had proudly taken over the city's best hotels and restaurants and other public places in the last few months suddenly went into hiding or left by automobile for the Reich.

### **GERMAN "TOURISTS" FLEEING**

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia, Friday, March 28 (UP).—German "tourists" were losing no time in getting out of Belgrade early today. They packed their bags in hotel rooms while crowds outside their windows shouted "Down with the Heinies!" and stoned the German and Italian tourist agencies.

The lobby of one of Belgrade's leading hotels looked like Grand Central Station in New York. Germans with luggage containing hunting rifles and fishing rods were leaving—ahead of the hunting season. These "tourists" had arrived in Belgrade in large numbers in recent weeks. Strong military cordons were thrown around the Italian and German Legations yesterday to prevent disorders there, following the smashing of the German and Italian tourist agencies' windows. Even with the guards, however, crowds succeeded in throwing stones at the Axis legations.

At the tourist agencies, after the window smashing, a speaker climbed onto a chair and shouted an appeal to the crowds to show self-control and said that such actions "are not manifestations of our patriotic spirit."

### **HUNGARY LAUDS BELGRADE**

**Yugoslav Choice Held Wise as Rejecting 'Sacrifice'**

BUDAPEST, Hungary, March 27—Great satisfaction has been caused here by Yugoslavia's joining the Tripartite Pact. The newspaper Pester Lloyd, in fact, says that no country could rejoice more at the event than Hungary, the true and sincere friend of Yugoslavia.

The paper praises the leaders in Belgrade who, it says, made a correct decision because on the one side that country was being called upon to "sacrifice herself" by entering into the "most hopeless of wars" on the side of the Allies, while on the other she would maintain peace and her territorial integrity.

Attention is focused on the speech of the Rumanian Premier, General Ion Antonescu, which is held to be contrary to the Vienna agreement

"There will be no peace in Southeastern Europe," he said, "until justice has been done to Rumania or until Rumania makes good the injustice done to her."

### YUGOSLAV ENVOY STAYS IN RUSSIA

MOSCOW, March 27 (AP)—Milan Gavrilovitch, who resigned as Yugoslavia's Minister to Moscow two days ago in protesting his country's adherence to the three-power pact, decided today to remain at his post to await orders.

### YUGOSLAVIA

The sensational coup in Yugoslavia is like a lighting flash illuminating a dark landscape. Beyond the drama in the first rising of a people against the coercion of Hitler, beyond the mystery shrouding certain aspects of the swift and well-organized overturn of the Government, beyond any consequences that may follow either the repudiation of the Axis pact or German action to enforce it—and it looks like war—the revolt of the Yugoslavs exposes for all the world to see the real temper of the nations forced by military or diplomatic pressure to submit to the Nazi yoke. It has been left to the tough, high-spirited peasants of Serbia and Montenegro to reveal how the people of Europe feel toward Hitler's pacts. The wild demonstrations of relief and joy that swept over Yugoslavia last night as the new Government took over, as the young King rode through the streets of the capital, as the army mobilized for instant defense of the frontiers, were celebrations of victory that could be duplicated everywhere if the nations under duress dared throw off their bonds.

This popular uprising is in itself a development of high, perhaps historic, importance. Described as "epoch-making" in the vivid story published this morning from our Belgrade correspondent, the long-range significance of the event is only heightened if, as certain signs indicate, the British had something to do with the sudden jolt to Hitler's plans in the Balkans. There are evidences of a plan, if not a plot, in the swift unfolding of events in Belgrade. Only time will explain why M. Stoyadinovich, the pro-Nazi Premier who might have been strong enough to impose the Axis pact, was spirited out of the country by his own Government on the eve of the Vienna surrender and placed in the custody of the English; why the Regent hardly waited for the signatories of the pact to come home before turning over his power to the King; why the coup was so thoroughly prepared and organized under military auspices that a complete new Cabinet under General Simovitch, commander of the air force, took over the Government in an hour, without an incident.

It is clear that London is far less surprised than Berlin by the turn of events. Engaged in showing the extent of his empire in Europe to the Foreign Minister of Japan, Hitler was rudely jarred into the realization that the Yugoslav rebellion was not a mere domestic flare-up which he could extinguish with the usual means. Much less is it a repetition of the disorders that gave him the excuse to occupy and subdue Rumania. This is real revolt, not only the first serious diplomatic reverse for

Hitler in the Balkans but a turn in the tide. It may be more—a prelude to military action on a large scale. The whole course of Hitler's negotiations with the Yugoslavs proves that he did not want to tie up more troops in occupying the country. It seems evident now that to move at all he will have to move in force.

As far as can be judged from the first spontaneous reactions, in fact, this coup may be the signal for the clash on the "second front." Hitler has paid so dearly to avoid a divided people—but divided by their very passion for independence—are united by Nazi pressure. Apparently ready to follow the path of resistance to the end, they have at last expressed their true feelings, and this release of the spirit of Yugoslavia will be nowhere more heartening than among the thousands of Americans of Yugoslav descent, agonizing in recent days over the fate of the motherland. Whatever happens, this is their day to cheer.

(Editorial) *N. Y. Times*

### YUGOSLAVS INSIST ON NEUTRALITY — WILL RESPECT ALL 'OPEN TREATIES'

Reich 'Reassured'—German Envoy Calls at Foreign Office Twice to Obtain Views—Stand By U. S. is Praised—Axis Citizens Start Leaving in Large Numbers—Yugoslav Military Steps Continue.

BY RAY BROCK

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia, March 28.—While King Peter II formally took the royal oath today and sealed the coup by which he seized the crown, the new government of General Dusan Simovitch informed the Reich that Yugoslavia would faithfully respect "all outstanding engagements" and strive for absolute neutrality enforced by the Yugoslav Army.

Sources close to the new coalition government of King Peter and General Simovitch told this correspondent:

"All public and open engagements undertaken in the past by Yugoslavia will be respected, and Germany, like all other nations, may expect that formal declarations of previous Yugoslav governments will be officially observed."

[The Exchange Telegraph (British) in a dispatch from Berne this morning said that Yugoslavia would not repudiate the published Three-Power Pact guaranteeing Yugoslavia's sovereignty and integrity, but would repudiate any secret clauses. The United Press reported in a London dispatch.]

If this was cold comfort to the Reich, authoritative circles pointed out tonight that the Simovitch government was solemnly respecting the letter of the law and pact of Vienna signed by the ousted Cvetkovitch government, still in existence, although the Yugoslavs who journeyed to Vienna to sign it are the objects of disgrace and contempt throughout their land.

### German Minister Calls

The German Minister to Belgrade, Victor von Heeren, paid his second and third official calls to the Yugoslav Foreign Office tonight. The Foreign Affairs Under-Secretary, Ilija Jukitch, and later Muncilo Nincitch himself apprised Herr von Heeren of the faithful intentions of the new Yugoslav Government.

Upon both visits today Herr von Heeren arrived in his long, black Mercedes which became a familiar object outside of the Foreign Office during the last days of



the crumbling Cvetkovitch government, Herr von Heeren declined the first invitation early yesterday morning and acceded only when General Simovitch dispatched a Yugoslav limousine with two Air Force officers to take the German envoy to the haven of the Foreign Office.

German sources late tonight said that Herr von Heeren had received "very satisfactory declarations" today.

Herr von Heeren waited for twenty minutes until M. Nincitch finished his conference with the Yugoslav Nationalists, Social Democrats, Independent Democratic, Agrarian and Serbian Radical Cabinet members.

The United States Minister to Yugoslavia, Arthur Bliss Lane, sent President Roosevelt's message to the Yugoslav Government shortly before 1 P. M. today. Within thirty minutes the congratulatory words of the American President were being shouted through the streets and references to the American arsenal of Yugoslavia—if needed—were inspiring toasts in orange juice and mineral water to the White House. Tonight after 9 P. M., when the alcohol ban was suddenly lifted, there were toasts in sterner stuff.

#### *Germans Leave Country*

Germans in Yugoslavia are leaving by the scores. The bulk of the colony will leave by special Danube vessels, it was reported tonight, for Budapest and Vienna. The Italians are going, too. A few resident Germans and Italians made their first cautious appearances in public tonight in hotels and cafes frequented largely by foreigners.

The smashed windows of the German Travel Bureau were replaced today and military patrols armed with machine guns and bayoneted rifles stood guard to prevent a recurrence of demonstrations in which windows were broken. The Italian Travel Agency windows had not been replaced. All costs of their replacement will be defrayed by the Yugoslav Government, it was understood.

Officials of Radio Belgrade and the telegraph offices told the writer that they had been swamped under mountains of congratulatory messages to King Peter from all parts of the world outside of the Axis and occupied countries. One radiogram came from the Yugoslav ship Dubrovnik in the Panama Canal Zone. It read:

"Your Majesty, we are overjoyed to know you are on the throne. We are certain now that Yugoslav honor is safe."

It was signed in the name of the passengers and crew by the master of the vessel.

#### **MATCHEK'S STAND AWAITED**

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia, March 28 (AP).—Yugoslavia today repudiated, in effect, the Axis alliance and informed quarters close to the new government predicted that Germany would withhold military assault at least momentarily while trying to break up the country from within.

Adolf Hitler would try to achieve this goal, it was suggested, by exploiting old Serb-Croat hatreds.

The Yugoslav Army, 1,200,000 strong, stood mobilized at the frontiers, ready for any military threat, but sharpest interest shifted to Zagreb, where the Croat leader, Vice Premier Vladimir Matchek, debated with his lieutenants whether to remain in the new Cabinet.

M. Matchek, a holdover from the government that was ousted Thursday, was said to fear that Croatia, the northern part of the country, would bear the first fury

of any German or Italian attacks, and thus he desired fulfillment of the Vienna agreement of last Tuesday.

German news agencies circulated stories, cautiously as yet, that M. Matchek had been forced at pistol point to enter the new Cabinet and that the Croats were "restless."

The Governor of Croatia was understood, however, to be negotiating with M. Matchek and the new Premier General Dusan Simovitch, for continued Croat representation in the Cabinet.

Aware of the situation, the new government informed Germany that the pact signed last Tuesday at Vienna by the men who were overthrown two days later would be neither renounced nor ratified, but would be left dangling while Yugoslavia maintained "full and absolute" neutrality toward every one.

This amounts to outright repudiation and high diplomatic sources said the Germans had been told flatly that compliance was "impossible because it would be contrary to the will of the Yugoslav people."

#### *Nazi Protest Reported*

This answer to an "urgent" demand for a statement of the Yugoslav attitude was unsatisfactory to Germany. The German Minister Viktor von Heeren, was reported authoritatively tonight to have delivered a new two-point note protesting the beating of Germans and demanding a satisfactory written declaration of the Yugoslav position, reminding the government that Germany considers the pact binding.

The Turkish Minister was reported to have proposed to General Simovitch a mutual-assistance pact.

Friends of M. Matchek said he was fearful that everything he had fought for through years of bitter opposition might be swept away by the apparent renewed ascendancy of the Serb military leaders backed by the Orthodox Church.

He was represented as fearing that General Simovitch, King Peter and the church might seek to abolish to the agreement for Croat home rule, reached in 1938.

The weekly paper, *Srpski Glas*, banned a year ago, because of Anti-Croat articles, appeared again, and some Croats charged it was backed by the Orthodox Church.

The apparent Axis decision to fish in the troubled waters of Yugoslav internal politics carries grave possibilities, and for those who put the unity of the country above all other considerations—and that means most of the responsible leaders—the internal situation transcends in importance any possible fight against aggressors or any outside aid in the fight.

The internal problem goes back to the founding of this State after the World War, with relations of the Serbs and Croats as the fundamental difficulty. The situation always has been complicated by religious and cultural differences, the Orthodox Serbs being antipathetic to the Roman Catholic Croats.

The pro-German newspaper *Vreme* assumed a pro-British tone. Its editor, Danilo Gregoric, who went to Germany to prepare the way for the Axis pact, was reported under arrest.

The government was hastening to solidify its position outside the Axis orbit.

One prominent citizen summed up the public attitude in this fashion:

"If this government doesn't resist [Germany], we'll get another that will."

It was reported without official confirmation that all the old Cabinet members except former Premier Dragisha Cvetkovitch and former Foreign Minister Alexander Cincar-Markovitch had been released

A broadcast in Russian, purportedly from Moscow and heard here three times during the day, declared that Russia regarded the change in government as "the normal overthrow of a regime of thieves and gangsters"

Meanwhile, diplomats agreed that there remained a 50-50 chance for a German radio broadcast to come true that Yugoslavia might extend the theatre of war in the Balkans

### COMMUNISTS DEMONSTRATE

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia, March 28 (UP)—Yugoslavia's new army-led government tonight stamped out anti-British demonstrations by Communists and struggled to overcome Croat opposition after advising Adolf Hitler against attempting to enforce "certain points" of the Axis pact.

The government tacitly informed Germany, through the Nazi Minister to Belgrade, that attempts to carry out the unidentified "certain points" of Yugoslavia's adherence to the Axis alliance might lead to a resurgence of Yugoslav internal troubles

The Communist demonstrations, starting simultaneously in several parts of Belgrade, were suppressed by police and soldiers after a scattering of leaflets assailing "imperialist England" and demanding an immediate pact with Russia by the new regime.

Several Communist leaders were arrested when police seized the pamphlets which assailed the government on the grounds that it is striving to "go to war to aid imperialist England"

The Communist agitators, including students, formed in groups in various parts of the capital and tried to organize a central protest demonstration against the new police orders banning all manifestations, but by 9 P M the students had begun to disperse

Police with fire hoses and soldiers in fighting kit were held ready for any Communist disorders

### BERLIN PROTESTS ANTI-NAZI RIOTS

**Nazis Await Reply—Third Demand is Made for Formal Belgrade Action on Pact—Affronts to Reich Seen—Germans Reported Attacked—but Reserve is Maintained Pending Developments,**

BY C BROOKS PETERS

BERLIN, March 28—The German Government apparently renewed today its demand for a clarification on the meaning to be attached to yesterday's military coup d'état in Belgrade. In addition to a demarché made yesterday, the Reich is understood to have made two additional ones to the new Yugoslav Government during the day.

The steps taken by the German Government today are said to have received an impetus from reports from Belgrade of anti-German demonstrations in Yugoslavia and to have been made in protest against such demonstrations and reported damage to German property there.

### U. S.-BRITISH "INTRIGUE" SEEN

BERLIN, March 28 (UP)—Germany tonight delivered a semi-official warning to Yugoslavia alleging that "anti-German outrages" against Reich citizens and the Yugoslav Army's coup d'état were linked with United States and British intrigues in the Balkan nation.

Official sources said a formal protest had been delivered to the new Belgrade regime against both the "anti-German outrages" and the swift Yugoslav military mobilization following yesterday's German demand for "immediate clarification" of Yugoslav foreign policy.

At midnight, after a lapse of nearly thirty-six hours, there still had been no reply from Belgrade clarifying the new government's attitude toward Yugoslavia's adherence to the Axis tri-power alliance in Vienna on Tuesday.

Many observers wondered whether Belgrade would reply at all, but Yugoslav circles said a formal statement was being drafted, including a general outline of foreign policy. Germany's position was said to be unequivocal—that the Tuesday pact-signing was binding and that "there can be no question of the new government or Parliament refusing to ratify it"

#### *Not an "Internal Matter"*

The Diplomatisch Politische Korrespondenz, semi-official organ of the German Foreign Office, disputed an official Yugoslav announcement that the army coup was purely an internal matter

"The anti-German outrages do not particularly strengthen the impression that it fundamentally was inner political motives that led to the elimination of the former constitutional government," it was said.

In this connection the Foreign Office organ called attention to the statements of British Prime Minister Winston Churchill and United States Under-Secretary of States Sumner Welles cheering the Yugoslav coup and promising fullest possible aid.

The statements, it was said, revealed how the United States and Britain "would like to view the Belgrade upheaval and its contingent developments," with Mr. Churchill all ready to "pick up Yugoslavia as an allied nation on England's side." The Korrespondenz then cautioned:

"But in Germany, naturally, the course of events within the Yugoslav nation is followed with proper attention"

Many Germans were reported leaving Yugoslavia.

The official D. N. B. news agency said in a Belgrade dispatch that the Yugoslav Government declaration of policy had not yet been announced because it still was being prepared. Yugoslav circles here believed no answer would come from Belgrade for at least another twenty-four hours.

Nazi comment remained guarded on the probable attitude of the new Yugoslav Government toward the Axis pact, but one official spokesman summed it up by saying:

"It is not usual for one government to cast overboard treaties signed by a predecessor"

The impression prevailed among observers here, however, that the German Government was not inclined to let matters drift and would insist upon a quick clarification of Yugoslavia's attitude.

Nazi official spokesmen said radio reports of the maltreatment of Germans in Yugoslavia "unfortunately were



confirmed." They said Viktor von Heeren, German Minister in Belgrade, had been instructed to protest to the new Yugoslav Government, adding significantly that he was in constant communication with Foreign Minister Joachim von Ribbentrop.

A D. N. B. dispatch said Yugoslav troops had occupied important streets in Belgrade and had surrounded the German Legation, where German women and children had been brought for safety. According to reports arriving here, Yugoslav mobilization—with 1,200,000 men already under arms—was proceeding rapidly and several additional classes of reserves were called to the colors during the night.

#### *Attacks on Germans Charged*

An official German agency dispatch from Belgrade, under the headline "Anti-German Demonstrations in Belgrade," said the demonstrations were principally by students carrying Yugoslav and British flags.

"The demonstrators undertook attacks on German persons, destroyed windows of the German travel bureau and devastated rooms of the Swabian-German Cultural Union," the agency said.

This news was carried on inside pages, however, and was not sensationalized, in conformity with the apparent German decision to move cautiously until Yugoslavia had made a choice.

German circles still appeared confident that when the smoke cleared Yugoslav foreign policy would reveal itself as at least passively favorable to the Axis. Obviously the matter has become for Germany a first rate question of prestige, coming as it does in the middle of the visit of Japanese Foreign Minister Yosuke Matsuoka, which had been planned as the climax of a dramatic series of spotless Axis diplomatic triumphs.

An authorized Nazi spokesman summed up the situation in this manner:

"How far the remarks yesterday of Churchill were based on political facts and how far on propaganda is not yet clear. Until the situation is clarified we must maintain complete reserve.

"The situation at Belgrade at the moment is extremely difficult to penetrate owing to bad communications and conflicting reports. On one hand there are reports of anti-Axis demonstrations; on the other hand there are reports of complete calm throughout the country. Some reports maintain that the coup d'etat had nothing to do with foreign policy.

"There are reports also that the Swedish Minister was stoned and beaten in his automobile, as well as other demonstrations against public institutions. However, there is great uncertainty of whether these reports are true."

#### *Legation Aide "Insulted"*

German press reports said a member of the German Legation staff in Belgrade had been insulted and that Germans on Belgrade streets had been accosted and threatened.

Concerning the reported attack on the Swedish Minister, one press dispatch said he was knocked down and beaten because he spoke German. The Minister appealed to the police but, according to the report, the gendarme replied: "If the people command, I must shoot even the Minister."

## **ROOSEVELT CABLES YUGOSLAVS BACKING**

### **He and King George at London Congratulate Peter—Lane Reports to Washington.**

BY BERTRAM D. HULEN

WASHINGTON, March 28—President Roosevelt tonight sent a message of good wishes and encouragement to Yugoslavia in her resistance to German efforts to interfere with her independence.

In a cablegram to King Peter II at Belgrade, the President said:

At this moment, when Your Majesty has assumed the full exercise of your royal rights and powers and the leadership of a brave and independent people, I wish to share with the people of the United States in the expression of our sincere and genuine wish for the health and well-being of Your Majesty and for the freedom and independence of Yugoslavia.

Furthermore, I extend the hope that the relations between your government and the government of the United States may be mutually beneficial in the support of those principles of liberty and tolerance so cherished by the Yugoslav and American peoples.

[King George VI of Britain sent a telegram of congratulations and good wishes yesterday to King Peter of Yugoslavia following his assumption of royal power and ouster of the Regency Council, press service dispatches from London said.]

The President's message was interpreted in most quarters as placing the moral support of the American Government behind the regime of King Peter. There was no indication in official quarters, however, of any immediate moves for more concrete aid to Yugoslavia.

President Roosevelt's cable was sent after Arthur Bliss Lane, the American Minister at Belgrade, had reported in a telephone conversation with Ray Atherton, chief of the European Division of the State Department, that everything was calm in Belgrade and perfect order was being maintained.

Mr. Lane was reached by telephone after a brief telegraphic report, dated yesterday, had been received from him by the department.

Mr. Lane said that no American interests had been interfered with or adversely affected and that enthusiasm continued at high pitch. He added that he had called on members of the new government.

Sumner Welles, acting Secretary of State, said at his press conference at noon that, until he had received official advice, he did not feel in a position to comment on the situation.

While it is recognized that the new Yugoslav Cabinet represents the several major racial elements in the country, it is also realized that the Germans have a stronghold there and might be able to stir up disorders that could be seized upon by Adolf Hitler as a pretext for marching in to "restore order."

#### *Decision on Pact Held Crucial*

Berlin's decision, it is assumed, will be determined by Belgrade's attitude toward the pact concluded with the Axis by the ousted government. It is believed that Belgrade would prefer to junk the pact, but it is felt that outright repudiation would require great courage inasmuch as it almost certainly would be regarded by Berlin as a declaration of war.

If the new Yugoslav government should equivocate, it is feared that Germany might not delay long in acting.

On the other hand, if Belgrade indicated that the Axis pact would be respected, it is thought that Herr Hitler might stay his hand, because it is considered obvious that he does not want to create a new front or throw away men needlessly.

In the opinion of officials here, if Germany attacked, the Yugoslav Army would probably be forced to retreat into the mountains of the south, giving up the northern part of the country. Once in the mountains, the Yugoslavs would face a problem of supply. This would be made more difficult, it is remarked, if Germany should occupy Salonika, Greece, the one non-Axis entrance to Yugoslavia.

Because of this narrow opening, it is felt that the question of the Yugoslavs obtaining American and British supplies might become difficult. Nevertheless, it is considered obvious that the encouragement given by Washington and London has spurred the Yugoslav will to resist.

Hopes must have been raised at Belgrade, it was said, by the realization that the modestly equipped army could be strengthened by materials obtained in the United States under the lease-lend measure.

Officials said flatly that the United States had not been a party to the Belgrade coup d'etat. They readily conceded, however, that the promises given of aid under the lease-lend law, if Yugoslavia were confronted with active German aggression, must have encouraged the revolting elements to proceed with their plans.

#### OUR AID SLOW, ARMY MEN SAY

WASHINGTON, March 28 (AP).—Yugoslavia may have to wait months, according to informed estimates, for substantial fulfillment of the pledge of American aid made by Acting Secretary of State Sumner Welles.

Military men expressed the belief that heavy contributions could be made under the Lend-Lease Act should the Yugoslavs prolong a conflict with the Nazis into next winter.

America's own arms shortage, added to the difficulties of transportation into the Adriatic kingdom, means that the United States could do little immediately to make the acting secretary's promise effective, the military sources said.

But if a German blow should be delayed, or if the Yugoslavs could resist into early 1942 or longer by retiring slowly and making a stand in their wild southern mountains, substantial material would be available for the Yugoslavs as well as the British, Greeks and Chinese.

#### PETER TAKES OATH AS THRONGS CHEER

**17-Year-Old King, in Uniform of Air General, Pledges Unity of Nation—U. S. Envoy Gets Ovation—Lane and British Minister Are Almost Overwhelmed by Yugoslav Well-Wishers.**

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia, March 28—To the jubilant Belgrade public the center of the universe today was not in the council chambers or the frontier redoubts, but the altar of the Serb Orthodox Cathedral in Belgrade.

There 17-year-old King Peter stood in the bright uniform of a general of aviation.

The patriarch, in red and gold robes, presented a golden cross.

Peter reverently kissed it and solemnly intoned:

"I, Peter the second, ascending to the throne of the Kingdom of Yugoslavia and taking over royal power, swear by God the Almighty that I will keep forever the unity of the nation, the independence of the country, and the integrity of State territory."

The dimly lit old building echoed to the shouts of the assembled throng.

The rest of the government took their oaths amid noisy confusion.

The United States and British Ministers, who attended, had to fend off good-naturedly the handshakes and kisses of the crowd when they entered the cathedral.

As they filed out afterward, they were almost overwhelmed by well-wishers. The United States Military Attaché, Colonel Louis Fortier, was elevated to the shoulders of sturdy Serbs amid exclamations of "Long live Roosevelt! Long live America!"

The crowd knew that Arthur Bliss Lane, the United States Minister, had offered American aid and that he told Premier Dusan Simovitch and Foreign Minister Momchilo Nincitch on behalf of President Roosevelt that the Yugoslav coup had caused "an immediate and popular reaction in America," that it was "a matter of self-congratulation for every liberty-loving man and woman."

Meanwhile, the German Minister, Viktor von Heeren, attended the ceremony in the cathedral amid a cold silence, which was in marked contrast with the frenzied ovations accorded the American, British and Russian diplomats.

LONDON, March 28 (AP)—Queen Mother Marie of Yugoslavia said tonight that she planned to return to Belgrade with her two younger sons as soon as she was well enough.

The 41-year-old mother of King Peter is convalescing from an operation performed in Switzerland about a year ago. The brothers of the King are Tomislav and Andrei.

"I have tried to bring up all three boys to act on their own judgment, to work out their own problems, to be tough," she said. "I know Peter is well able to look after himself and that he will make a worthy King."

#### PROCLAMATIONS OF KING

*The British Broadcasting Corporation sent out today the following versions of two proclamations by King Peter of Yugoslavia. They were transcribed here by CBS:*

##### First Proclamation

Serbian, Croats, Slovenes!

In this moment so grave for our people I have decided to take the royal power into my hands.

The members of the Regency Council have appreciated the correctness of the reasons for my action and immediately resigned at their own accord.

My royal army and the navy have at once placed themselves at my disposal and are already carrying out my orders.

I appeal to all Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes to rally round the throne.

Under the present grave circumstances this is the surest way of preserving internal order and external peace.

I have charged Army Corps General Simovitch with the formation of a new government.

With trust in God and the future of Yugoslavia I appeal to all citizens and all authorities of the country to fulfill their duties to King and country.

PETER II

### **Second Proclamation**

In these moments so grave for our nation I am taking over the discharge of my functions as King.

The Regents have resigned. I have already begun to exercise my royal functions.

My army and the navy are at my orders, which is the best means of maintaining order and peace.

I appeal to all Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes to go on with their normal work

PETER II

### **THOUSANDS IN MARSEILLE HAIL YUGOSLAVIA; DECORATE MONUMENT TO KING ALEXANDER**

MARSEILLE, France, March 28—All day today a demonstration in honor of Yugoslavia took place in the center of Marseille. Early in the morning people started singly and in groups to go to the monument of King Alexander of Yugoslavia and Louis Barthou, French Foreign Minister, who were assassinated here in October, 1934, to deposit wreaths.

Later they began depositing bouquets on the tablet in the middle of the famous Avenue la Canebiere where the actual shooting took place. Traffic was interrupted for a time here and the police had to be called to restore order.

There were many shouts of "Vive Yugoslavia."

Late this afternoon there was a heap of flowers at the monument about two and one-half to three feet deep and fifty feet across. Late in the day, by order of the police, the flower shops were closed.

Among those held for questioning by the police were a woman Red Cross ambulance driver, a French Red Cross member who is here distributing American milk and a social worker. There was a brief demonstration in front of the Stock Exchange. The whole demonstration took place, however, without any rioting and the crowds were readily dispersed.

MARSEILLE France, March 28 (AP)—Buoyant French by many thousands poured today and tonight through Avenue la Canebiere, Marseille's proudest promenade, singing and shouting their joy in the resurgence of Yugoslavia and heaping a mountain of flowers about the spot where King Alexander was assassinated.

It was a spontaneous demonstration which swelled in size and volume by the hour, and the 200 police who were called out were unable to halt it.

Assembled by nothing more than the whispered word that Yugoslavia had defied Berlin, the Marseillaise milled through the promenade and into the Place de la Bourse, at the harbor end, crying "long live Serbia!" and singing the "Marseillaise."

### **REAL "WAR CABINET" SEEN**

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia, Friday, March 28 (AP)—Yugoslavia sped its army of 1,200,000 to battle stations today on the swift pace of an anti-Nazi, pro-British coup

that overthrew the Regency government for joining this kingdom to the Axis, placed the boy King Peter II in full power, and held the deposed regent Prince Paul under military arrest.

Paul was seized by the army at Vinkovci, important railway junction near the Hungarian border. He had been reported in flight to Hungary or Greece.

A new government headed by General Dusan Simovitch, with the 17-year-old King Peter handed full sovereignty, gave short shrift to the German Ambassador, Viktor Von Heeren.

Herr Von Heeren rushed to the Foreign Office yesterday morning as soon as Peter formed a new Cabinet. He received exactly six minutes to state the German position—reported abroad to be a virtual ultimatum.

When he asked about the new government's attitude toward the Axis pact which the old regime signed Tuesday at Vienna, it was reported that the new Foreign Minister Nomico Nincic replied merely

"I can't tell you that yet."

Otherwise, the policy of the new government will be based on friendship for the Axis, M. Nincic is reported to have added.

Neutral diplomats, however, said this was merely an attempt to stall for time while the military and internal situations were consolidated in preparation for war.

Despite official "hedging," there was no mistaking the belligerent temper of the populace. All seemed to believe that this country finally had a real "war Cabinet" which would break with Germany and Italy.

Greek diplomats jubilantly declared that with even a part of the Yugoslav Army to assist, their troops could complete the occupation of Albania in three weeks at most and then, with British aid, 2,200,000 fighting men would be ready to confront the Nazis.

The Yugoslav public demonstrations for war against the Axis made clear that thousands here desired just such a development.

King Peter met his new Cabinet at the fortress in the heart of the city yesterday and rode resplendent on a white horse through the main streets while the cheering people pelted him with flowers.

Reports from the provinces were scanty, but indicated that the coup followed a pattern similar to that in Belgrade, with all the army, from the topmost officers to the lowliest private, whole-heartedly supporting the new regime.

The preparations for war followed with lightning speed.

### *Church Supports Move*

The Yugoslav patriarch of the orthodox church surrounded by nineteen Bishops here for a holy synod meeting, spoke from a balcony.

A great shout went up when he boomed out:

"The church people are ready to protect the honor and glory of our country."

"You should rally around the new King and be prepared for what comes."

"The church is always with you."

From early morning until late at night the Belgrade radio blared forth martial hymns.

It was a unique revolution started by school children who for two days shouted in classrooms those same feelings which the parents finally took to the streets today and proclaimed to the world with unmistakable fervor.

It was a military putsch carried out with clocklike perfection.

It all began while the then Premier Dragiska Cvetkovitch and his Foreign Minister, Alexander Cincar-Markovitch, were in Vienna signing the pact with the Axis.

As the two leaders of the capitulation government were being hailed by the Axis, General Simovitch was busy at home preparing the coup d'état.

#### *New Cabinet Listed*

Following is the list of the new Cabinet:

Premier—General Dusan Simovitch

Vice Premier—Vladimir Matchek.

Second Vice Premier—Slobadan Javanovitch

Foreign Minister—Momcilo Nincio.

War and Navy—Bogoljub Ilitch

Interior—Srdjan Budisavljevitch

Transport—Bogoljubeyitch.

Finance—Jura Shutej

Agriculture—Branko Markovitch

Justice—Lazar Markovitch

Education—Miha Trifunovitch.

Commerce and Ministry—Ivan Andres

Mines—Djafer Kulenovitch

Public Works—Father Fran Kulovetch

Public Welfare and Hygiene—Milan Grol

Posts and Telegraph—Ivan Torbor

Food—Sava Kosanovitch

Ministers Without Portfolio—Marko Dakovitch, Jovan Banjanin, Barisa Smoljan

#### **SIMOVITCH HEADS AIR FORCE**

##### **New Premier a World War Flier With Brilliant Record.**

During the Yugoslav Cabinet crisis on March 7 General Dusan Simovitch, the popular and energetic air force commander, was suggested by several foreign military sources as the likeliest leader of a militant government pledged to reject all Nazi demands.

Last November, when the Yugoslav War Minister appointed new commanders for the air force and the important Second and Fifth Armies, facing Albania and Bulgaria as well as the Sixth Army, guarding the Adriatic coast, General Simovitch was promoted from command of the Second Army to supreme command of the air force. It was in the opinion of military observers the most vital change to take place.

A World War flier with a brilliant record, General Simovitch was formerly Air Chief and Chief of the General Staff who was relieved of that post in October, 1938, after a difference with General Milan Neditch, who later resigned as War Minister. In consequence of General Simovitch's appointment, air circles in Belgrade predicted an immediate strengthening of Yugoslav air defense against repeated frontier violations.

General Simovitch fought in the two Balkan wars of 1912 and 1913, when he was a captain. He was promoted colonel in the World War. He is 58 years old.

#### **GERMAN TROOPS SHIFTED**

##### **Occupation Forces in Bulgaria Go to Yugoslav Border.**

SOFIA, Bulgaria, Friday, March 28 (AP)—German occupation forces in Bulgaria were rushing today toward the Yugoslav frontier, apparently as the result of the ouster there of capitulation government of Regent Prince Paul.

An informed source in this capital said the Nazi southward movement of troops, under way since the occupation of Bulgaria, had been reversed suddenly and a rush of Nazi reinforcements was sent in the direction of Yugoslavia.

"The movement of the past several weeks in men and materials has been completely reversed," the source said.

The general view here was that the Yugoslav coup which ousted the Axis pact signers and installed a pro-British and pro-Greek government would sooner or later precipitate a general Balkan war.

Some German troops in Southern Bulgaria were immediately shifted over toward the Yugoslav frontier near where it meets the Greek line.

#### **SWEDISH MINISTER BEATEN AS 'GERMAN' IN BELGRADE**

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia, Friday, March 28—Anti-Axis demonstrators dragged Swedish Minister Malm from his car and beat him severely because the Minister, speaking German, was believed to be a German citizen.

The 60-year-old envoy was in a serious condition.

#### **THE CHOICE OF A FREE PEOPLE**

Four things, above all others, have happened in these dark months since catastrophe fell on Western Europe to lift the hearts of free men everywhere and fill them with new courage. The first of these was the splendor of the episode at Dunkerque. The second was—and is—the proof that we have had of the steady courage of the plain people of the British Island under fire. The third is the heroism of the Greeks defending their own border. And the fourth, its drama still fresh before our eyes, its story still unfolding, is this revolt of the Yugoslavs against dictation from Berlin.

It is an ironic circumstance that now finds Hitler, the assassin of treaties, protesting that Yugoslavia has broken a treaty with him. Here is a call for "good faith" and the redemption of a "promise" by a traitor who has broken every promise he has ever made—to Austria, to Czecho-Slovakia, to Poland, Norway, Belgium, France and Holland. But the promise given him in the case of Yugoslavia was not made by the people of that country. It was made by a Government whose inability to speak for the people in this instance was demonstrated by the widespread and bitter protest against the giving of this pledge. The promise, extorted under pressure, was invalid when Hitler accepted it in the mock ceremony at Vienna. He has no cause to complain if it is now repudiated by the people in whose name it was offered.

The unwillingness of the new Government of Yugoslavia to play Germany's game, and its determination instead, to pursue an independent policy of its own, confront Hitler with two alternatives. Either he can accept this decision with as much good grace as he can muster, or he can make good the threats of the Berlin press and march on Yugoslavia in an effort to drag that unwilling victim into the Axis by sheer force of arms. Both alternatives carry risks for him. But the risk of the first course—the danger, to his whole jerry-built regime, of permitting a small rebellious nation to defy his will in his own chosen *Lebensraum*—is so much greater than the risks involved in the second choice that it seems probable

that he will march. In that case peril and hardship lie ahead for the people of Yugoslavia. Let us see that every ounce of aid that we can give them is sent with all possible speed.

(Editorial) *N Y Times*

## YUGOSLAVIA TO STATE POLICY; INTERNAL HARMONY SOUGHT

BY RAY BROCK

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia, March 29—Premier Dusan Simovitch, beset by Croat dissatisfaction over his military coup d'état and by the apparent beginnings of a German indignation and atrocity campaign, worked with his key Ministers tonight on Yugoslavia's foreign policy declaration, which will be issued late Monday or early Tuesday.

The declaration, which will follow the general outline already disclosed in these dispatches—strictest neutrality and Yugoslav recognition of all "open and public agreements with all nations" will be the answer of the Premier and his new coalition to the increasingly forceful German demands for an "unconditional statement," sources close to the government declared tonight.

Four companies of police and soldiers were sent to vantage points tonight about the center of the city and stationed to prevent demonstrations.

[The Soviet Government was reported to have sent congratulations to the new Yugoslav regime, according to The United Press. It also was reported authoritatively that Dr. Vladimir Matchek, the Croat peasant leader held over from the old regime as Vice Premier, had insisted that the new government affirm its adherence to the Axis alliance, The Associated Press said. He also was said to demand a guarantee of Croat autonomy.]

### *Berlin Awaits Declaration*

The German Minister, Viktor von Heeren, called again at the Foreign Office today to inform Foreign Minister Momcilo Nincitch that his government desired a public policy declaration as soon as possible. Herr von Heeren was informed that the statement would be speedily forthcoming, probably on Monday afternoon or Tuesday morning, in a formal statement to the press, it was learned tonight.

Yugoslavia's new leaders in the meantime sought to end the Croat reluctance to recognize the fait accompli of Thursday's coup, and Dr. Vladimir Matchek, Croat peasant leader, was urged to come to Belgrade immediately, accept the Vice Premiership and "form a granite front around the throne."

Dr. Matchek, still reluctant, conferred for five hours in Zagreb today with Dr. Ante Koshutitch, his Croat Peasant party vice president, and Ivan Subovitch, Governor of Croatia, who had returned from Belgrade to report on the Simovitch Government and its two first days of activity.

Dr. Matchek, who was dissatisfied with some of the members of the coalition government and displeased by the abrupt overthrow of his personal friend, former Regent Prince Paul, called a meeting of his party leaders for tomorrow at his Kupinetz farm, near Zagreb, when he may come to his fateful decision.

Croatia itself remained calm despite a minor pro-Soviet demonstration of 200 young students at Zagreb early this evening, and competent observers from Croatia reported

tonight that the German radio reports of growing dissension and separatist feeling were vastly exaggerated.

### *All Demonstrations Banned*

King Peter's new Premier and his advisers were far more concerned tonight with apparent German attempts to produce an effect of disorder and "incidents" against German nationals in the country. While the German official radio indignantly charged anti-German demonstrations in Yugoslavia, General Simovitch took stern measures to end all demonstrations, including skylarking street-corner singing fests of people who were unable to forget so soon that the young King and his army gave them their heart's desire Thursday morning and overthrew the despised Cvetkovitch Government.

This correspondent sought in vain to find the new "incidents" reported by the German radio. The original incidents, the smashing of the German Travel Agency windows, the beating of the assistant German military attache and the booing of the German Minister, occurred Thursday and Friday. Today's "incidents" might have been the three-hour detention of a German Legation secretary who was stopped by Army police in the outskirts of the city and returned to military headquarters for questioning.

This, however, is nothing extraordinary, for Serbs and other foreigners have been detained under similar circumstances for questioning by the military.

Correspondents in the provinces reported general calm despite considerable anti-German animosity, aroused during the last few days of the Cvetkovitch regime by the German Kulturbund agents, who sought to terrorize village merchants and small craftsmen, notably in the Vojvodina in Croatia.

Evacuation of German and Italian nationals from Yugoslavia lent color to the general picture. More than 400 Germans and about 85 Italian "tourists," business men, their wives and children, and wives and children of Axis diplomats were leaving or preparing to leave tonight. The bulk of the German colony, including several hundred additional "tourists" from all provinces except Croatia, are expected in Belgrade Monday, to be sent by river steamer to Vienna Monday night.

### *Danube Traffic Light*

A German steamer is en route down the almost empty Danube, where, in the Yugoslav stretch of the stream, Yugoslav river authorities have moved all empty craft downstream to vantage points below Belgrade. Traffic is almost at a standstill.

The evacuation of other foreigners, including British women, Czechs, Poles and others refugees of the occupied countries, continues. The nightly 11:40 plane to Salonika was booked to capacity tonight.

Between conferences with foreign diplomats, including the American, Italian and German Ministers, Premier Dusan Simovitch and Foreign Minister Momcilo Nincitch met with the Cabinet from 9:30 A. M. to 1 P. M., to pass the new budget, which is operative from April 1 to the end of the year.

Milosh X. Bobitch, a Serbian radical, was named Mayor of Belgrade, supplanting Jesha Tomitch in the general turnover of public officers following Thursday's coup. M. Bobitch's first official act tomorrow will be to approve the new army order providing night guards for Belgrade factories, siren watchmen for air raids and special orders for women factory workers, including the direction to the nearest hospital after air attacks.

### *Yugoslav Press Is Calm*

Despite increasingly angry accounts on the German radio and the proximity of German troops to the Yugoslav frontier, the Yugoslav press resumed its calm exposition of Yugoslav aims and policies. *Politika* cited at length the celebrated speech of the Serbian Patriarch, calling on all Yugoslavs "to form a granite force about the throne for the defense of the Fatherland," and went on through an apologia for the tremendous celebrations of Thursday.

"Many of the cries heard during these demonstrations," said the *Politika* editorial, "were by no means in accord with Yugoslav neutrality and tend to cause difficulties with our neighbors, with whom we wish to remain on terms of peace and friendship."

"The meaning of this change will be correctly assessed as a matter of internal politics. We expect that the new regime will strike out on new paths to eliminate all that made the former regime unpopular and by reason of which it could no longer exist."

King Peter himself, after two days in the eyes of his overjoyed people, retired for a rest and contemplation of the immediate future, which his advisers considered to look graver with each passing hour. The young King received a telegram today from his mother, Queen Marie, who according to well-informed court circles was preparing last week to return to Belgrade in spite of her poor health.

The telegram said: "May God bless you, my son and King, as well as our dear Fatherland."

### **PREMIER SEEKS A FORMULA**

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia, March 29 (AP)—Germany ordered all her nationals out of the Province of Serbia, Italians began leaving by the hundred and British women also were advised to go quickly as the new Belgrade government wrestled tonight with the problem of keeping Yugoslavia non-belligerent.

There were indications that nothing had been settled as yet—indications such as abandonment, on Berlin's orders, of the Lufthansa air line to Belgrade, tension in all diplomatic quarters, new Yugoslav-German conversations uncertainty in the Croat-Serb situation and the rapid departure of foreigners.

One thing, however, was certain. General Dusan Simovitch, Premier of the three-day-old regime that ousted the Yugoslav signers of the Axis alliance, is not eager to provoke a conflict with any one at this moment.

General Simovitch wants time to reconcile, if he can, widely divergent views on the course he should follow—whether to accede to Nazi wishes and confirm Yugoslavia's junior partnership in the Axis or heed those of the Yugoslav Army and people who shouted against it Thursday after the overnight coup that put him and young King Peter II in power.

United States Minister Arthur Bliss Lane had a long private conference with Foreign Minister Momcilo Ninitch during the afternoon, having previously conferred with Premier Simovitch.

Three courses are open to Premier Simovitch:

1. To renounce publicly any unpopular pact. No one believes that will be done. It would satisfy Thursday's demonstrators, but no one believes that would be tolerated by the Axis and most agree it would be premature from a military viewpoint.

2. To announce publicly, in veiled diplomatic language, that Yugoslavia, desiring the friendship of all, would live up to any "open" pact. This might displease Thursday's

demonstrators, but it probably would be satisfactory to the army. It would not fool Berlin, but it might even serve German interests momentarily.

3. To go the whole way in agreeing to recognize all commitments, public or otherwise, made by the ousted government. This is what the Axis wants, but it would be suicidal if observers correctly estimate Yugoslav Army and popular sentiment.

By a process of elimination, most observers believe the second course is the most likely. Government circles say German-Yugoslav conversations are proceeding along that line.

### **SOVIET SAID TO BACK MOVE**

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia, March 29 (UP)—The Soviet Government was reported tonight to have sent congratulations to the new Yugoslav regime as the German legation here burned its archives, the customary diplomatic preliminary to severance of relations.

The Soviet telegram was said to have declared that the people of Yugoslavia had again "shown themselves worthy of their glorious past." Yugoslavia thus faced simultaneous indications of Soviet approbation and German disapproval of her new government.

At the same time the government had bolstered its internal position by giving guarantees to Vladimir Matchek, the venerable Croat leader. Dr. Matchek, it was learned, had received guarantees backed by royal authority that all previous concessions to Croatia would be continued.

Milan Gavrilovitch, leader of the Serb Agrarian party and Minister to Moscow, agreed to retain his Moscow post and hold a ministry without portfolio in the government at the same time. Thus, the government has bolstered its position for whatever may eventuate.

### **MATCHEK DEMANDS REPORTED**

ZAGREB, Yugoslavia, March 29 (AP)—Dr. Vladimir Matchek, leader of millions of Croats, was reported authoritatively tonight to have insisted that Yugoslavia's new government publish a declaration affirming this kingdom's adherence to the Axis alliance. The Croat peasant leader also was said to demand a declaration guaranteeing Croat autonomy.

The leader of the Croats, who buried their differences with the Serbs only in 1939 in a Croat home-rule agreement, was expected, meanwhile, to remain silent on all overtures that he be active in the new regime at least until he can go to Belgrade Tuesday or Wednesday and investigate the situation at first hand.

An important member of Dr. Matchek's intimate circle asserted that the "new government has decidedly won the confidence of all Serbs, but has lost the confidence of all Croats." Croats say there is a widespread feeling that the coup was a Serb stroke directed more against Croatia than against the Nazis.

### **ANTI-NAZI TENSION PICTURED**

#### **Hungary Hears New Outbreaks Force Germans to Flee.**

BUDAPEST, Hungary, March 29 (UP)—Hungarian press reports declared tonight that German nationals were fleeing Yugoslavia under a rising wave of anti-minority



outbreaks and said air and Danube River traffic between Yugoslavia and Germany had ceased

The Hungarian press carried dispatches reporting increasing tension between Germany and Yugoslavia. Many of the dispatches were attributed to the semi-official Hungarian I N B news agency.

According to Hungarian reports, anti-German demonstrations in Yugoslavia are increasing. One Hungarian news agency reported that persecution of German minority elements had started under leadership of the Cetneks Society, a semi-military Serb organization. This report said members of the society had "invaded" German communities and that bitterness between Germans and Yugoslavs was increasing.

Another Yugoslav report appearing here was that Milan Gavrilovitch, Yugoslav Minister to Moscow, had gone to Belgrade three weeks ago and asked Premier Dragisha Cvetkovitch for full powers to negotiate a Soviet-Yugoslav non-aggression pact.

This request was said to have been refused by M. Vetrovitch, whereupon the Minister was said to have proposed that Yugoslavia attempt to obtain a military alliance with Russia. This project also was said to have been turned down by the former Premier.

### **BULGARIANS CAUTION YUGOSLAVS ON AXIS**

#### **Advise Adherence to Pact to Keep Balkans Out of War.**

SOFIA, Bulgaria, March 29 (AP)—Bulgaria issued a friendly, semi-official warning to neighboring Yugoslavia today to "adhere to her foreign policy, including the three-power pact."

A commentator on the Sofia radio said: "England is trying to instigate Yugoslavia to war and extend the conflict to the Balkans as well. We hope the dark clouds now sweeping over the Balkan peninsula will scatter and our problems will be settled peacefully."

The government spokesman, Sorti Yaneff, leader of the majority in Parliament, was more outspoken in the newspaper Dneff.

"Whatever happens, Serbs and Bulgarians must never be on opposing sides," he said. "If the war extends here, one or two countries as enemies are apt to become the victims. The Bulgarian nation will be sincerely glad if the new (Yugoslav) government's decision is the result of solid reasoning, not momentary feeling."

### **NAZIS HOLDING OFF DECISION ON SERBS**

#### **Will Wait to Hear Belgrade's Position on Axis—Won't Tolerate 'Insults'.**

BERLIN, March 29 (AP)—Authorized German spokesmen declared tonight that Germany would not be provoked into action against Yugoslavia by what they termed the machinations of British agents or the howls of street mobs in the Balkan kingdom.

Germany, they said, can afford to take her time and weigh in calm leisure the importance of the upheaval that has turned out a pro-Axis government and cast doubt upon Yugoslavia's intentions as to the tripartite pact, which she signed only last Tuesday.

However the spokesmen warned, "Germany will not stand for being insulted."

Persons authorized to present official views said that "an anti-German tendency among Serbs subjected to chauvinistic influences is on the increase."

What Germany must know, these persons said, is whether these manifestations are controlled from above or whether they are independent of government policy.

Should it appear that they result merely from the general political confusion within the kingdom and if the new Yugoslav Government shows by deeds, not words that it intends to support the tripartite Pact fully, Germany may prove bighearted, as one spokesman put it.

In so far as could be learned here, the German Minister, Viktor von Heeron, still is in Belgrade, awaiting a final clarification of these issues. Authorities said the Yugoslav Government had apologized to him for catcalls and whistles that were heard yesterday when he appeared to participate in ceremonies incidental to the enthronement of young King Peter.

It was reported, however, that Herr von Heeren had made a new protest to the Yugoslav Foreign Office, and the impression was that it, too, concerned incidents at the oath-taking.

It goes without saying that demonstrations against the German Minister have been noted especially in the Wilhelmstrasse, for Adolf Hitler is exceedingly sharp about insults to Germany's representatives.

To questions as to whether Herr von Heeren had engaged in political discussion with the Yugoslav Foreign Minister today, a spokesman's reply was:

"Germany has no reason to talk politics—if Yugoslavia has changed its course it should inform the Reich."

In other quarters conditions in Belgrade were called chaotic.

German radio broadcasts kept up their stress on reports that the Croatian population of Yugoslavia was not in accord with Belgrade policies and tendencies, and the final attitude of Vladimir Matchek, the Croatian Vice Premier in both the old and new governments, apparently was regarded by Nazis as a key to this situation.

### **"ICE-COLD DETACHMENT"**

BERLIN, March 29 (UP)—Germany charged tonight that forces within Yugoslavia were working to disrupt relations with the Reich, and asserted that Berlin was watching with "ice-cold detachment" an attempt by "terroristic street mobs in Belgrade" to sway Nazi policy.

(Use of the phrase "ice-cold detachment" by the Nazi spokesman may be of utmost significance. A Nazi spokesman used those identical three words last April 8 to describe Germany's reaction to London's announcement that the neutral waters of Norway were being mined. Less than twelve hours later the Nazi invasion of Norway was under way.)

Another possibly significant Nazi line was an attempt to differentiate between the Serbs who are the leaders of the new Yugoslav Government and the large Croat population, which lives largely in the area adjacent to the German-Yugoslav frontier.

Some non-official German political observers went so far as to suggest that if matters came to an open crisis between Berlin and Belgrade the Croats might not support the Serbs.

However, there was no factual evidence to back up the belief that the Nazis are seeking to engineer a split between the Croats and the Serbs.

"If certain forces in Yugoslavia today think they must oppose friendship with the Axis and reject the Tri-Power Pact," said a Nazi spokesman, "then they and they exclusively must bear the responsibility for this

"If they think they can with impunity play upon Germany's generosity they are mistaken. We are not willing to permit ourselves to be provoked and insulted by these groups paid with British money

"The Reich Government does not intend to permit its policy to be decided by terroristic street mobs in Belgrade"

These demonstrations, they charged, were organized by "chauvinistic Serbs" and were designed to interfere with good relations between Germany and Yugoslavia

Summing up the attitude of the Wilhelmstrasse, an authorized German spokesman said

There seem to be internal forces in Yugoslavia at work to disturb and worsen relations with Germany and Italy despite the Tri-Power Pact. At the moment the question we are asking ourselves is whether that merely is an expression of a somewhat chaotic internal situation which will later straighten itself out or whether it marks a definite and intentional political aboutface

"We are in no great hurry to judge the situation

"We have time and patience and are watching the situation with ice-cold detachment"

Pointing to the Croatian attitude toward coup, Germans said

"It is evident that the Croats are avoiding anti-German demonstrations and according to reports from Zagreb (largest city of Croatia) everything is quiet there in contrast to Belgrade

"There are also reports that the Croat Ministers joined the government only from opportunistic reasons or for the sake of internal solidarity. There are no indications in any case that they are supporting a changed foreign policy"

Some reports, they said, indicated that Croat Ministers had been forcibly compelled to accept Cabinet posts, that the Croats had submitted a demand for Croat autonomy to Belgrade and had demanded that Belgrade engage in no warlike adventures

### ITALY BEWILDERED BY YUGOSLAV STAND

**Illogical' Situation Is Seen—Policy of the New Regime Is Expected to Be Favorable—Revolt Story Irks Rome—Rumor Laid to Belgrade, but Inquiry There Traces Report to Italians' Plot.**

BY HERBERT L. MATTHEWS

ROME, March 29—Italian newspapers today finally came out with stories of the anti-Axis demonstrations in Belgrade. There is evidence of rising impatience and anger but at the same time there is hope that the new regime will adapt itself to the old situation

In any event there will be a period of waiting until Belgrade takes a more definite stand.

The Axis has worked on what may be called a logical line regarding Yugoslavia and the same attitude is still being taken. Originally Germany considered Yugoslavia would agree with her suggestions, particularly because she was surrounded by the German Army, had a weak internal situation due to the pro-German Croats and had an economic structure largely dependent of German economy.

However the feeling now entertained in Rome is that there is something illogical about the whole Yugoslav situation. It does not seem to make sense from the

Italian point of view. The Serbians do not seem to have cared what was going to happen to them and their country.

### Human Element Upsets Plans

The human element, with all its incalculable emotions, has upset the mathematically precise calculations of the Axis and now finds here a genuine sense of bewilderment

That is one of the main reasons why they and the Germans are waiting for clarification of the situation. When political circles here today continued, as they have for three days, to say, "Information has not yet been received that sufficiently clarifies the situation," they were sincere.

To them nothing could be less clear than what is happening in Belgrade and they hope that with sober thought the Yugoslavs will see the logic of the situation and not commit suicide. There also is the question of how long the Italians and particularly the Germans will accept the insults implied in the popular demonstrations in Belgrade

Yugoslav circles here admit their situation is strikingly like that of Czecho-Slovakia when she first mobilized in the Spring of 1938. Adolf Hitler swallowed insults at that time because he was not ready to take action, but in September he struck and that was the end of Czecho-Slovakia. Again a situation has arisen where Herr Hitler is not ready to use force, but he has not been known to forgive and forget, so Yugoslav quarters fear the worst in the long run

### REVOLT STORY IRKS ITALY

ROME, March 29 (UP)—Italian resentment against Yugoslavia was increased tonight by reports that Belgrade had started rumors of an Italian revolt led by Marshal Pietro Badoglio

The Axis attitude toward Yugoslavia obviously was stiffening and the Italian press for the first time published descriptions of attacks upon Italian and German property in Belgrade

Official quarters were anxious to clarify the situation immediately because Yugoslavia's admission into the three-power pact had been considered one of the final diplomatic preliminaries before opening of the Spring offensive.

The alleged Belgrade reports about a revolt in Italy aggravated the situation. The rumors were denied here. Correspondents found everything normal throughout Italy. A check by telephone with Milan, Genoa, Naples and Palermo showed they were calm

The Italian press started to prepare the public for the unpleasant news about Yugoslavia but refrained from editorial comment. The official Stefani agency reported from Belgrade that the German Minister had been booed and the Italian and German tourist offices ransacked. The assistant German military attaché, it said, was attacked and German flags were torn down.

Dispatches from Berlin charging that British intrigue was back of the Yugoslav coup were printed together with advices that Germany was watching the situation closely. Other dispatches charged that the British hoped to disturb the situation in the Balkans and said that British-American hopes had been pinned on manifestations in Yugoslavia.

### RUMORS LAID TO ITALIAN

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia, March 29—Belgrade is again the prey of rumors, including extraordinarily widespread stories that rioting and revolution have broken out in Italy.



Usually reliable frontier sources could find no foundation for the rumors. Exhaustive investigation, during which the reports were traced as nearly as possible to their source, made it appear that a clumsy effort had been made by Italians to 'plant' the story upon British and American journalists and discredit them with the new press chief and his assistants. The attempt, if such it was, was unsuccessful.

## YUGOSLAVS AWAIT UPSHOT OF THEIR BOLD COUP

**They Soberly Discuss the Outlook as Great Celebration Comes to End.**

BY RAY BROCK

BELGRADE, March 29—Pausing at a newspaper kiosk at the end of the Terazia a young Serbian air force officer flung down a two-dinar piece and picked up a copy of the morning Politika. It was Friday morning and strollers were out in the fine sunshine. One jostled the officer's arm, for after strolling a few paces and glancing at the headlines he suddenly stopped. He caught the arm of the passerby and lifted the newspaper before the stranger's eyes. The civilian saw four diamonds on the young officer's epaulettes and looked at the raised newspaper smiling. "Dobro," he said. "Good. It is the finest news in all the world. No?"

The flying officer with smiling eyes nodded, and releasing the stranger's arm pointed a finger at the front page picture of young King Peter bestriding a white horse and then to a three-column cut picturing the Terazia jammed with massed thousands who cheered King Peter and General Dusan Simovich on Thursday, the day of the coup.

The stranger, drawing a deep breath repeated, "Dobro," but he pointed up and made a sign of falling bombs. "What about tomorrow?"

*"What of Germany?"*

He repeated the question, for the young officer had looked away down the Terazia where the Yugoslav tricolor hung from every window.

"What about Germany?" asked the civilian. "What about tomorrow?"

"Tomorrow," repeated the officer. "We all of us would gladly die tomorrow for having lived yesterday."

The smile which broke on the stranger's face was beautiful to behold. He took the officer's hand and gripped it. "we, too."

Beyond the upper end of the Terazia on the thoroughfare which passes the palace, tanks were being withdrawn. Big anti-aircraft guns and machine guns of the infantry patrols which had defended that sector since 2 o'clock on Wednesday were withdrawn an hour later. The broad boulevards and avenues were back to normal and the shops opened and only bits of bunting and torn paper marked where the celebrations had occurred.

The Politika and the Vreme carried notices forbidding all public meetings and demonstrations and ordering the closing of all mid-town kafanas at midnight and some suburban cafes at 10 P. M. There were no public demonstrations and nobody seemed seriously to mind the alcohol ban for a few days. Only the school children who started the first angry demonstrations against the Cvetkovitch government and the capitulation refused to be quieted.

The New York Times occupies an apartment on the fifth floor of a building opposite a Belgrade secondary

school. At 9 o'clock on Friday morning the youngsters wound up again indoors and four floors up away from the public view but just opposite this correspondent's windows "Petra Drugi" they chanted—"Peter II"—marching around the schoolroom and bouncing books on the backs of chairs. Not even the loss of two nights' sleep could produce drowsiness. It went on. "Petra Drugi! Neka pakt!" ("Down with the pact!")

Their average age was about 13. They are the same boys who last Tuesday morning while Cvetkovitch and Cincar Markovitch were preparing to go to the council tables of Vienna, slammed down their exercise books and went on strike against the morning's German lesson. One saw them on Thursday on top of automobiles amid massed thousands in the Terazia yelling their heads off with happiness.

### *Stature of the Serbs*

The Serbian people have about the proudest bearing of any people in Europe. They are uniformly big people, six footers or more, and stand and walk with chests out and shoulders and heads up. The morning after the unforgettable Thursday it seemed to this correspondent that they all had grown another inch or two, for they walked like kings with smiles on their faces, taking long steps and setting their heels down hard. It looked as if they were walking to music.

In the kafanas, where all men meet in the quiet moments of the day, the talk was serious, even grave, but not gloomy. The name of General Dusan Simovitch was upon almost every tongue in tones of quiet pride and vigorous understanding. Here, they said, was a man. Some Serbian elders sought to draw a parallel between the lightning coup of General Simovitch and his air force chieftains and the assassination in June, 1903, of King Alexander Obrenovich and Queen Draga. But aside from the fact that the coup of 1903 was struck by a small band of officers and the fact that, despite displeasure among some European circles, the Serbian people recognized it as an imperative political necessity there seemed little resemblance between the two.

President Roosevelt's message to the new government made a profound impression in Belgrade as did the quick visit of the Turkish Ambassador to the government once the foreign office was functioning normally again. While the great masses of the people talked defiance and fight, the sober elders—the Ins and Outs among the politicians—lawyers, doctors, editors and craftsmen calmly discussed neutrality and return to normalcy from the inch by inch surrender policy of Cvetkovitch and Prince Paul.

### *Sympathy for Paul*

Prince Paul's downfall brought some sorrow and much understanding even from among the deadliest enemies of the Cvetkovitch regime. "Paul, after all," as one of the elder Serbs said on the eve of the coup, "after everything, is still a Karageorgevitch. Whatever he has done he still belongs to the dynasty founded upon the fighting blood of Serbs and most of us feel he made this (the Vienna surrender), the greatest mistake of his life, because he had been educated and lived too much away from the real life of us."

Young King Peter's overwhelming reception from the people startled nobody who knows Yugoslavia. His coronation, scheduled for September 6 on his eighteenth birthday, would have been a time for enormous celebration and merrymaking. The fact that the tall handsome young man who came to the rescue of his country in its hour of

deepest depression and gravest danger, riding—at least theoretically—at the head of the royal army, only enhances the picturesqueness of the event which already is inspiring folk songs and legends among the peasants.

When the young King was sighted in his automobile in Belgrade on Friday the cheering and singing which immediately began threatened to start Thursday's demonstrations all over again.

When the crowd finally subsided it declined to break up and stood about while some of its more imaginative members entertained the rest with a legendary story of how the young King was aroused from deep slumber at 2 A. M. on Thursday by an air force officer, Colonel Knezivitch. Peter was quickly awakened, according to the story, and after hearing the coup had started, wrote a simple proclamation calling all Serbs, Croats and Slovenes to stand by him and the royal army until a government was formed.

King Peter signed the proclamation and Colonel Knezivitch snapped to attention with words: "Za Kralja i Otaozbin!" (For King and Country!) and sped away, so the story goes, to inform his fellow-officers that Yugoslavia had a new ruler. "Za Kralja i Otaozbin" was the battle cry of the Simovitch coup and, incidentally, its password.

#### *Doubts in Croatia*

From a password it came to be a byword and a toast wherever Serb met Serb. It displaced the familiar "sdravo" (your health) which accompanies a good glass of slivovitz, for despite the general prohibition there was plenty of slivovitz and the wine drunk to the health of king and country today. Private Serbian cellars are replete with both.

In all provinces except Croatia the army coup and the sudden enthronement of Peter II met the wildest acclaim. In Croatia there remained lingering doubts whether General Simovitch and his strong new coalition government successfully could resist Germany and bring out either peace or honor. Travelers from Croatia reported separatist feeling and defeatism.

The task of reuniting all Croatia with Serbia and Slovenia appeared the first and gravest problem of the new King and the army's coalition government as one of the most dramatic weeks in Yugoslav history ended. The army itself continued to prepare for any eventuality with a singleness of mind that left no room for further adventures in politics or internal dissension.

### **A DIPLOMATIC VICTORY GOES SOUR ON HITLER** **Yugoslav Coup d'Etat After Signing Of Axis Treaty** **Puts a New Face Upon the Balkan Situation—Army** **Not To Be Demobilized.**

BY EDWIN L. JAMES

It is too early to measure exactly and completely the results of the coup d'état in Belgrade, but one thing is certain and that is that it marks a setback for German diplomacy. That being true, it complicates the Nazi position in the Balkans and serves to delay the projected onslaught of Hitler against the Greeks who have defeated his pitiable Axis partner named Mussolini.

On Tuesday Prince Paul, the then Regent, and his Ministers went to Vienna and signed a pact adhering to the tripartite Axis. Paul took this action despite strong evidences of popular disapproval, especially on the part of the Serbs. The next day his government was thrown out and General Simovitch set up a new government

which appeared at once to have a strong popular support.

The important issue for the moment relates, of course, to the attitude of the new regime toward the treaty signed at Vienna. The Germans are awaiting impatiently for a declaration from Belgrade. The Simovitch government has made no direct statement, as this is written, regarding the Vienna pact. It says it will respect "open" obligations of the preceding government. For very good reasons that is not a complete statement, as the Germans know full well.

#### *The Yugoslav Army*

While little was said about it publicly, it is known that in the negotiations between the Germans and Prince Paul, the spokesmen for Hitler insisted on the demobilization of the Yugoslav Army, which had been placed on a war footing. Most of the army officers, who think well of their 1,200,000 men, were bitterly opposed to this move. Their argument was that, although Germany had made some apparent concessions relating principally to a Nazi promise not to send German troops through Yugoslavia, if Belgrade had no means of resistance there would be the danger that Hitler, as he had done before, might not be able, in a tight spot, to resist the temptation to break his promises. Therefore when Prince Paul drew up his proposals for the Vienna pact the German demand for the demobilization of the Yugoslav Army was not mentioned.

While Paul was in Vienna, the report spread among the army officers that he intended to sign a secret understanding with the Germans providing for the demobilization of the army. It is now reported by the new regime that he did make such a commitment, although it was not mentioned in the public terms given out. Apparently, this was what spurred the army leaders to resistance and when Paul got back they ousted him from power.

Therefore, it may be readily understood that the word "open" used by the Simovitch government in describing the commitments it will respect may have a very important meaning because Paul's promise to demobilize the army may well be regarded as not being an "open" commitment. In any event, it seems a very good surmise that the new Cabinet does not intend to send home the army, thus leaving the country at the mercy of the Germans without the ability to resist. Doubtless it feels that within or without the Axis family, the country will receive much more consideration if it has an army ready for defense.

#### *Situation Is Not Clear*

The new Belgrade regime proclaims its intention to remain "neutral." Yet the Vienna agreement, even without the secret understanding regarding the army, provides for the passage of German munitions through Yugoslavia. It would not be difficult to argue in useful circumstances that such permission would be unneutral.

That the Germans feel that some difficulty has been created for them is indicated by the Berlin press campaign alleging "atrocities" against Germans in Yugoslavia. This is reminiscent of the campaign that preceded the attack on Poland and it may well be that the Nazis feel that their position, on the face of it, is so weak that they must prepare a special case for use among the German people should Hitler decide to attempt to crush Yugoslavia.

It is easily possible that Berlin is hoping for a division between the Serbs and Croats which may take away from the Simovitch government the benefit of national unity. The Belgrade Government is engaged in intensive nego-

tiations with the Croatian leaders in an effort to cement national unity

Naturally if the Germans go at it hard enough they could defeat Yugoslavia in the long run. But nevertheless the existence of an army of more than a million men ready to resist invasion by the Germans complicates matters no little for the Nazis. In the first place they will hesitate to push down through the narrow Bulgarian approaches to Greece with the Yugoslavs on their flank, not to mention the Turks on the other flank. This means that their generals will wish to put much stronger forces in Bulgaria should the Yugoslav Army succeed in maintaining itself.

#### *Factor of Delay*

Should the Nazi General Staff decide to deal with Yugoslavia before attacking Greece, there will develop an important delay, during which the British would be able to strengthen their position in Greece.

It would not be an overnight job to crush the Yugoslavs. Of course, with their Panzer divisions and air force the Germans should be able fairly quickly to drive the Yugoslavs from their northern frontiers. In fact, it is possible that the Belgrade generals would not attempt a serious defense of the northern quarter of their country. But further on the mountains begin and there may be a different story.

Across their country the Yugoslavs have a strong line of natural defense with mountain ranges crossed by few roads. Here the German tanks would find hard going as did Mussolini's tanks against the Greeks in similar terrain. Aviation is not as efficacious in mountain warfare as it is on flat ground. It is easily possible that it would take the Germans two months to go through Yugoslavia and consolidate their positions.

Having shown that they can hold back Italian attacks in Albania, even when directed by Il Duce himself, the Greeks must feel that the Belgrade developments are like manna from Heaven. A week ago, they faced the prospect of a quick German attack on Salonika, with a Yugoslav bargain with Germans which would keep Belgrade not only neutral but furnishing certain facilities to their would-be invaders. Now, suddenly, there is a row between Berlin and Belgrade, the outcome of which must give the Greeks a little surcease. It does not mean that the Greek situation has been saved, but it does help it considerably and to an extent which cannot yet be determined.

#### *A Sight for Matsuoka*

If there is any room for humor in such a situation, it could be reflected in the German plans to show Matsuoka, the Japanese Foreign Minister, how they were sweeping everything before them and that if Japan wished to be in the Axis bandwagon she should get busy with some devilment in the Orient. That was the plan and it was even thought at one point that Matsuoka would attend the signing up of the Yugoslavs.

But, instead of that, the Tokyo Foreign Minister has been given the sight of a signal German diplomatic defeat. Following that, he is going to Rome tomorrow to visit Mussolini, whose Ethiopian empire has just been chewed to pieces by the British. The Japanese are noted for not saying all they think, but anyhow Matsuoka has been given something to think about, even if he keeps quiet about it until he sees his Emperor again.

## YUGOSLAV COUP POINTS TO NEW PHASE OF WAR

### **It May Force Hitler's Hand Militarily In the Mediterranean Theatre.**

BY HANSON W. BALDWIN

German ambitions met a check last week in the mountains of Yugoslavia and the modern Roman Empire tottered under the shock of successive defeats in the mountains of East Africa.

It was a good week for Britain, virtually unbattered by German air raids, though still assaulted on the seas—a week that brought the prospect of a new ally in the Balkans, Yugoslavia.

But the week's developments were still primarily to the "big push" of the Spring, and Britain recognized this. With Germans in Rumania, Bulgaria, Austria, probably in Hungary and in Italy, Sicily and North Africa, the Mediterranean theatre of war was prepared for a dramatic and sanguinary drama. The forces were disposed and ready, much of the preliminary political scene-shifting had been done, which has been momentarily expected these past two weeks, might come at any time.

But, in so far as the Balkan front is concerned, the blow may well be deferred. For the Yugoslav revolt seems overnight to have changed the strategic picture.

When Yugoslavia officially joined the Axis the victory for Nazi power-politics was a limited one, but it was a victory. The flank of the German armies in Bulgaria was ostensibly safeguarded, their line of communications protected, the strongest army in the Balkans neutralized.

#### *Uncertainty Remains*

The popular revolt against the persons and the policies that made adherence to the Axis pact possible apparently altered all that. It is still too early to tell what course Yugoslav policy may take, but that it has a definite anti-Axis slant is certain.

Much now depends upon the degree of unity and cohesion that the Kingdom of the Croats, Serbs and Slovenes, and particularly its army, can now maintain, and discussions going on among the Croat leaders, whose peoples are most exposed to German assault, are especially pertinent.

But at least it seemed that Yugoslavia, or a large section of the Yugoslavs, would fight if the Germans crossed the frontier. Whether they will fight in any other case is uncertain, but it is sure that the German lines of communication in the Balkans are now imperiled by a nation that is, as far as its popular manifestations are concerned, anti-Axis, and it is certain that a German drive down the Struma Valley into Greece would be exposed to counter-action against its flank from the frontier of the Yugoslavs.

Thus, Germany may now defer the blow and try first to achieve by the Hitlerian "divide-and-conquer" method the Balkan domination that it now seems most probable she will have to achieve—if she is to achieve it at all—by military means.

#### *Nation's Strength*

In a military sense Yugoslavia seems ready. Reports from that country state that 1,200,000 men have been mobilized, but of this number probably no more than 750,000 to 900,000 are effectives and not all of these are well equipped. She is believed to have sixteen to eighteen first-line infantry divisions, now of varying strength, but which at full war strength might number 25,000 men each. In addition there are two cavalry divisions.

With the mobilization of reserve divisions—not so well-equipped as the first-line troops—the total might be brought to a maximum of about thirty-two divisions. The soldiers are natural fighting men, the infantry is excellent, but there is inadequate artillery support and few modern arms.

The Yugoslav troops are organized into six armies, which would roughly correspond to army corps in other countries, each consisting of two to three divisions and supporting troops. These armies are disposed to take best advantage of the natural defensive features of the country—river systems and mountain ranges.

Though Yugoslav field fortifications have been erected along the extreme northern frontier with Austria and Hungary and Rumania, these could at best serve as delaying factors against a determined German advance; the first stand would have to be made behind the line of the Sava that merges into the Danube system near Belgrade.

#### *Defenses in Serbia*

The river line, however, perhaps could not long be held, and a retirement farther south to where the great hill masses of Serbia make defense easier might be necessary. Any number of natural defense lines could then be established in wild and rugged mountains that reach altitudes of 7,500 feet or more.

But the German armies in the Balkans, which may now number 1,000,000 or so, might not attack Yugoslavia, but might chance, eventually, the push down the narrow defiles of the Struma Valley in Bulgaria toward Salonika. There, however, they would find a British force estimated at two to three divisions and those divisions of the Greek Army that can be spared from fighting the Italians waiting for them. Farther east, Turkey, with at least 500,000 good fighting men, waits, encouraged to resistance by the Yugoslav stand, by Russia's promise of benevolent neutrality and Britain's assurance of military aid.

But the Balkan situation is but part of the great struggle in the Mediterranean basin. Unrest in Syria and new skirmishes between German and British troops in Tripolitania are part of the same vast picture. The Syrian agitation may be either British or Axis inspired, its sources and its results are obscure.

In Western Libya it seems certain, both from British communiqués which tell of British submarine activity in the Central Mediterranean and from German-Italian statements, that the German strength there in support of the Italians is slowly increasing.

#### *Other Nazi Forces*

Other German forces are in Sicily and Southern Italy and German planes based on these points and on the Dodecanese Islands and in Rumania and Bulgaria are gradually extending their operations beyond Malta, to Suez (mined and bombed), to Crete and the Aegean, striking at the supply lines of the British.

The Italian Navy, in its first public activity in weeks, met units of the British fleet in two engagements.

But in East Africa the Italian hopes for empire were crumbling into ruins as town after town was taken by the British in a five-pronged drive into Eritrea and Ethiopia.

British forces were approaching Addis Ababa, the capital of East Africa, from three directions; the Addis Ababa-Jibuti railway had been nearly cut; Cheren fell after a long siege and the crack troops of the Savoy Grenadiers were retreating toward the Red Sea coast.

Last week seemed the beginning of the end in East Africa, but in a strategic sense the collapse of this iso-

lated part of the Italian Empire had already been written off, and long since—ever since the Italian effort to use the colony as an effective base for striking at British supply lines through the Red Sea area had failed—it had ceased to have strategic importance. Its final surrender, however, will be of importance in two ways; first, as a psychological blow to the already battered morale of the Italian people; second, many of the victorious British troops will be released for service elsewhere.

#### *Additional Troops*

How many will be so released is problematical, probably no more than 30,000 to 60,000. But in addition to this number and the British forces under Sir Henry Maitland Wilson that are garrisoning captured Cyrenaica; in addition to those British troops that have been transferred to Greece, there must be a British concentration of perhaps two or three divisions (probably no more perhaps less) at or near Alexandria or other Eastern Mediterranean ports, ready for any eventuality.

For, although Britain is pressing her victories to the limit in the Mediterranean theatre, she must be prepared, too, to see which way the cat is going to jump. Because of the numerical inferiority of her forces, she must conserve them and she must be ready to block a joint German-Italian drive in Tripoli toward Cyrenaica (possibly it is now too late in the year, too close to the season of awful desert heat for such a drive to be started), a German drive toward Greece or Yugoslavia, or a German drive toward Turkey and Syria.

It is too early yet to attempt to assay the eventual outcome of the Mediterranean-Balkan struggle, but certainly Britain's situation today is far more favorable than even her own most optimistic citizens could have hoped for five months ago. And Yugoslavia's sudden revolt has, in effect, taken the initiative away from the Germans in the Balkans, put upon them the burden of the next move, and may even prove to have been a turning point in the war.

### **SERBS AID THE DEMOCRACIES**

#### **Effects of a Popular Movement Against Dictatorship Are Already Being Felt.**

BY C. L. SULZBERGER

ATHENS, March 29—Overnight the Balkan balance has been astonishingly changed by the dramatic Yugoslav coup which not only tremendously reinforces the Allied position on the Continent but also encourages the hope that perhaps it will inspire the sullen populations of such subject States as Bulgaria and Rumania on some later day to take matters into their own hands.

Paradoxically, it would seem that the extension of the war to this area is just as imminent as on the day when the news came from Vienna that Dragisha Cvetkovitch, the ambitious politician, as Premier, and Aleksander Cinar-Markovitch, his pro-German Foreign Minister, had signed the Tripartite Alliance over the rising protests of the Yugoslav population. That night it seemed that Adolf Hitler had got his foot in the door of this last fortress blocking his way in the Balkans and it was generally expected that he would shortly unleash the great army he had gathered in Rumania and Bulgaria under General List in order to try to knock out Greece and perhaps sweep down to the Straits and the Sea of Marmora,

Throughout the peninsula the Germans were bragging and Italians had reason to be optimistic for the first time in months. Loud-speakers set up in the trenches on the Albanian front called on the Greeks to surrender in face of the thrust of the combined Axis forces abetted by the Serbs

#### *Celebration in Greece*

This is now all changed Thursday was the greatest day for Greece since Oct 28 and celebration has spontaneously broken out throughout the land The feeling here is that Yugoslavia not only has renounced the Axis leanings of its previous government but now is wholly on the Allied side.

The results of this turnabout enforced by popular will are manifold Militarily Yugoslavia is the strongest Balkan power with the possible exception of Turkey, and her soldiers have the reputation of being the best in the world The last edition of the German "Taschenbuch der Heere" estimates the war strength of the Yugoslav Army at 1,400,000

There is a general feeling that Yugoslavia is now so far committed to war by the active fighting tendencies of its belicose population that should Germany be scared off her Balkan plans by the new Belgrade situation, the Serbs might take the initiative themselves It is certainly not beyond the realm of the probable that any such development would have immediate repercussions in Turkey and the hesitant Turks would be likely to pile on the other Nazi flank especially in view of the recent encouragement Ankara has received from Moscow

#### *Across National Boundaries*

There are many other ramifications in the new Balkan scene. Politically it is worth pointing out that the new Belgrade Cabinet includes many agrarian and democratic leaders who are well respected in the Bulgarian equivalents of those parties and some of them, such as Milan Grol and Milan Gavrilovitch have been in active contact with Bulgarian Democrats for a long time.

While it would be foolish to look for immediate repercussions in Bulgaria which already is strictly in the hands of the Germans and their puppets there will always be encouragement to the sentiments locked in the hearts of many in that nation. Perhaps the Belgrade coup will pave the way for the long-looked-for dream of many Yugoslavs and Bulgars for the eventual union of their lands in a South Slav power stretching from the Black Sea to the Adriatic

Economically Yugoslavia's new stand will cost the Axis plenty Yugoslavia has been frequently described as the California of the Balkans, an extremely important supplier of meat fats, wheat corn, fruit, vegetables, bauxite, copper, chrome, lead zinc and timber to the Axis powers This, obviously, is now ending Likewise Yugoslavia, lying athwart the most important of the Balkan railway systems along which Russian oil has traveled to the Reich from Varna and along which Germany had hoped to send the heavy materials necessary for a Balkan campaign, now menaces Reich strategists

#### *Copper for the Allies*

The French-owned Bors copper mines were quietly seized by the Germans last Winter after some trick dealing at the Paris offices and since then most of their output has been going to Germany This situation will probably cease immediately, and it must be emphasized that Bors is the largest copper mine in Europe. Likewise

the British-controlled Trepca lead and zinc mines as well as the Allatini chromium mines will not be forced to send any of this output to the Axis in the future

Thus over night, the entire Balkan picture—and this is a vital area in the outcome of the entire war—has been altered, and there is every reason to believe that the Allies may be able to make this a big year after all.

The greatest triumph, however is the fact that all of this was occasioned by the force of popular will, which refused to be overthrown by power politics This victory of free spirits is bound eventually to have an incalculable effect in these regions and it may not be too much to hope that some day the contagious disease of liberty may infect some of those persons most intimately connected with its oppressors.

### **TURKS HOPE FOR NEW BALKAN FRONT**

#### **With Yugoslavs and Greeks They Plan a Firm Stand.**

BY G. E. R. GEDYF

ISTANBUL, March 29—The news of the coup d'état in Yugoslavia has overshadowed in Turkish minds even the great news of the Soviet Union's encouragement to Turkey to defend herself against the Nazis by the reassurance that Turkey could rely on the Soviet Union's full comprehension and neutrality

Not since the war began has there been such a heartening week for Turkey The week last December which saw the beginning of the Italian débacle in North Africa certainly ran a close second with good tidings. But the news this week touches Turkey closer because the war has been at her very gates since, as it is described here, the Bulgarian ruler's "betrayal" of the cause of Balkan liberty in opening his gates to the Nazi hordes

#### *Three Weeks' Events*

For Turkey the change which has come over her whole war prospects in the last three weeks is tremendous, and even taking into consideration the occupation of Bulgaria, extremely favorable At that time the regime in Bulgaria, headed by King Boris, was obviously determined to invite the Nazis to advance to the frontiers of Turkey and Greece preparatory to joining them in an attack on their southern neighbor at the most intense moment of her struggle against the most dangerous enemy of the whole Balkans—Italy

Greece, apart from the presence of a few British air squadrons and small British detachments at Crete was fighting the Italian colossus singlehanded In Yugoslavia Dragisha Cvetkovitch was clearly determined to affront the nation's will to fight by a surrender to Berlin, abetted by the Regent, whose reputed Anglophilism was promptly abandoned under pressure by the Axis

It seemed clear that within a couple of months Turkey would find herself forced to enter the war, although uncertain of just what Britain's plans were And if Turkey did enter the war would not Russia in self-interest seize the occasion of the first Turkish reverse to secure herself against Germany by the seizure of such of the Turkish territory as she could?

#### *Steps Traced*

There followed Sir Anthony Eden's two meetings with Foreign Minister Saracoglu in which the latter was told of Britain's precise plans for winning the war, what part

she expected Turkey to play, and precisely what help Turkey could expect. Most valuable of all, Turkey was told of British plans for coming to the aid of Greece in the event of a Nazi attack from the rear.

During the intervening lull Turkey received the fullest information of British progress in preparing to assist Greece while she herself put a stop to all Nazi-inspired rumors of an armistice.

In Crete Mr Eden's proofs that Britain was prepared already for deeds to back up words decided Turkey to complete her preparations for entering the struggle when the moment arrived. Best of all was the news from Moscow concerning the Soviets' benevolent attitude toward Turkish resistance to the Nazis.

It can now be revealed that these assurances were received here three weeks before publication and were such an unexpected and pleasant surprise to the Turks that they did not know whether to ask the Soviet Union to agree to their publication.

#### *A Forced Move*

But clear signs that Yugoslavia's leaders were determined to flaunt public opinion through an abject surrender forced the decision to publish the Russian reassurances though too late to prevent M Cvetkovitch from pursuing his policy. It was then touch and go. If the Yugoslav Ministers reached Vienna, signed and returned to Belgrade without being faced with a national revolution Yugoslavia's fate was sealed. Within a few weeks, whatever worthless assurances Hitler might give, it was clear that his troops would be in Belgrade and all hope of forming a powerful military bloc of the Greek, Turkish and Yugoslav armies would be gone forever.

The Turks, whose confidence in the courage of the Yugoslav people never was shaken, were shocked to see the Premier and Foreign Minister depart unhindered on the mission which every one here regarded as most shameful.

A tense forty-eight hours ensued while all Turkish friends of Yugoslavia listened with ears to the ground for the first tremors of revolution. There was a particular reason for this tenseness.

#### *Terrain Difficulties*

Military advices had suggested that the Germans had found the roads down the Struma Valley in Bulgaria impossible for mechanized troops and the terrain too difficult to warrant an attack via Bulgaria alone with unmechanized forces. But with Yugoslavia's capitulation in their pockets, it is believed the Germans would have entered Yugoslavia on some excuse and used the forces of Bulgaria to hold the Greeks while the main advance was made through Yugoslavia. This move was said to be set for Friday, March 28.

All this was fundamentally changed by the decision of the Yugoslav patriots to take their fate in their own hands and follow the dictates of national feelings.

For it is only against totally unprepared and peaceful peoples or those undermined by a fifth column of fascist reactionaries as was France that the Axis has been successful.

When it is considered that the same brief period here reviewed has seen the crowning disgrace for the Duce's personally conducted offensive in Albania, with the full might of Italy's long-prepared war machine halted and the unwilling Italian troops flung back with severe losses, while the Duce's African proconsul Graziani is dismissed

after a long series of defeats as his only souvenirs of Africa, it will be appreciated why Turkish hearts are high.

#### *Warrior Peoples*

Indubitably the last three weeks have brought the war much nearer Turkey. But in the face of Hitler's attempt to create a new world which would be safe for fascist autocracy, the Turks feel that it is not the geographical proximity of the scourge from the north but conditions under which the clash will have to be faced which matter. Thus—provided always that the Yugoslavs are able to obtain the fruits of their national revolution—the Turks have every reason for rejoicing over the balance of accounts.

Throughout the diplomatic manoeuvring of the last twelve months Turkey has cherished two main hopes—an assurance of Russia's good-will and the formation of a common battlefield of the warrior peoples of Greece, Turkey and Yugoslavia. The first already is realized, the second seems well on the way.

#### **AXIS PROTESTS SEIZURE OF SHIPS; GERMAN ENVOY QUILTS YUGOSLAVIA; ARMY READY. SIMOVITCH DECLARES**

**Premier Asks Calm—Calls on Yugoslavs to Shun Panic and Stand Fast in the Crisis—Foreigners Flee Country—Nazis Are Said to Be Massing Troops on Hungarian Border—Matchek Accord Reported.**

BY RAY BROCK

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia, March 31 —Premier Dusan Simovitch broadcast a stern proclamation to the Yugoslav people tonight demanding that they shun panic, stand fast and "if destiny so orders it, give their lives for the good of their homes, their fatherland and King."

"The Army, the Air Force and the Navy," declared the Premier, "are ready to do their duty."

Viktor von Heeren, the German Minister to Yugoslavia, at about the same hour tonight was preparing to leave Belgrade in an answer to his recall to Berlin. A special train evacuated 1,300 German nationals early tonight. The Italian colony, save for the diplomatic staff, left by special train for Italy an hour later.

[According to The Associated Press, Herr von Heeren led the last of the German nationals out of Belgrade on a special train, departing eight minutes before the midnight deadline he had set for the exodus. It was also reported that five German divisions were concentrated on the Hungarian-Yugoslav border early today.]

The headlong flight of Serbian women and children to the seacoast provinces of Dalmatia was abruptly halted by government order tonight. Troops armed with bayonets and machine guns surrounded the Belgrade Railroad Station late this evening.

#### *British Order Women Out*

Foreigners were evacuating in frantic haste. All British women were ordered out of Belgrade by tomorrow night.

The Yugoslav Government archives were being moved tonight from Belgrade Ministries to Bosnia, in South Serbia. All State and municipal officials, however, were ordered to remain at their posts.

The Belgrade Radio broadcast instructions for air-raid defense. The instructions, however, were all but drowned in a flood of vituperation and violence poured out by the German radio transmitters against Serbia and the



Yugoslav Army. Neutral informants at Berlin said that Wilhelmstrasse authorities were speaking with "ice-cold detachment" about Yugoslavia, while insisting that "German patience was nearing exhaustion."

General Simovitch broadcast his proclamation at the dinner hour tonight as the German radio attack reached its peak, duplicated only by the fury and violence heaped upon Czecho-Slovakia in 1938 and Poland before the invasion. The German press dispatches and radio broadcasts described the looting and burning of German shops and homes and assaults upon German citizens and the German minorities in the Yugoslav Banat and Banat. The German broadcast, termed baseless in every instance, served, nevertheless, to inflame the Serbian people.

General Simovitch called upon the people to ignore alarmist rumors and preserve their calm.

"Our government," he said, "seeks to maintain its friendly policy with all neighbors \* \* \* It will continue its efforts with that object in view."

He then reminded the people that the defense arms of the nation were ready. He forbade public demonstrations and demanded order. He forbade general evacuation, already under way from Belgrade, and urged the people to stand fast before their homes. General Simovitch then instructed his Ministers and municipal authorities to enforce his orders.

"I call upon all officials," he concluded, "to do their duty in this difficult moment."

#### *Alarm Spread by Rumors*

The gravest alarm spread today when the public learned that the German Minister had been recalled to Germany. Rumors sprang up that the recall had been accompanied by a German ultimatum to Yugoslavia, but the reports were quite without foundation.

Neutral diplomatic sources said that Herr von Heeren's recall probably was attributable to several things: First, the German desire to heighten the war of nerves; second, preparations for the real thing if the war of nerves fails, and third, Herr von Heeren's incompetence as demonstrated, from the German viewpoint, by his complete failure to understand the temper of the Yugoslav people and army.

It was Herr von Heeren who counselled that the time was ripe early in March for the introduction of the new German demands. It was Herr von Heeren who conducted the bulk of the negotiations with the Cvetkovitch government. Finally, it was Herr von Heeren who informed Berlin the Cvetkovitch government safely could sign the Tripartite Pact and pave the way for a bloodless conquest of Yugoslavia's transport and economy and, eventually, her independence.

This fatal blunder, shared by the Prince Regent, former Premier Dragisha Cvetkovitch and his government, precipitated the Simovitch coup of Thursday morning.

Sources close to the government said that the Yugoslav Minister to Berlin, Ivo Andrich, had been summoned to Belgrade and would arrive late tonight or early tomorrow morning. Foreign Office sources said that the Yugoslav Ambassador to Turkey Ilija Choumenkovitch, was to have left Ankara yesterday but received last-minute orders to remain in Turkey five days longer to keep the Turkish Government apprised of developments in Belgrade.

#### *Neutrality Aim Stressed*

The Belgrade press continued to stress the new Yugoslav Government's determination to strive for friendship with all neighbors and neutrality if possible. The key-

note was struck by this morning's Politika and was echoed in this afternoon's Pravda.

Politika carried a front-page article by Radoje Knezivitch, one of the leaders of the Simovitch coup. The article had special importance, both because it was originally written for the March edition of the press and because of strong phraseology demanding a new government (to replace the Cvetkovitch regime) to meet the will of the people.

M. Knezivitch, who is now Court Minister, replacing Milan Antitch, who is in protective custody, entered young King Peter's bed-chamber at 2:05 o'clock last Thursday morning to inform the King that the Regency had been overthrown and the army was in the streets, and that the time was at hand to proclaim a new order in Yugoslavia.

The capital's streets were crowded throughout the day and Belgrade kafanas were filled to capacity at noon and dinner hours and coffee time, as Serbians gathered to discuss the new crisis. When it is considered that Yugoslavia has been confronted with a German-made crisis, kept almost at maximum pressure since the middle of February, the persistent determination and unwavering resistance of the people emerges as remarkable.

The only alarm even approaching panic which this correspondent found in any Serbian today was among husbands and fathers struggling to get their families out of the capital into the safety zone along the lower Adriatic coast.

#### **NAZI UNITS REPORTED READY**

BELGRADE, Tuesday, April 1 (AP)—Five German divisions were reported concentrated on the Hungarian-Yugoslav frontier early today soon after the German Minister, Viktor von Heeren, led the last of German nationals out of this country on a special train departing eight minutes before the midnight deadline he had set for the exodus.

"I am going to report to my government," Herr von Heeren said.

"I will see [Foreign Minister Jochim von] Ribbentrop immediately upon my arrival in Berlin."

The reported concentration of some 75,000 German troops on the Northern Croatia frontier coincided with word that Yugoslavia had found national unity in an agreement between the veteran Croat leader Valdimir Matchek and Premier Dusan Simovitch.

M. Matchek's paper in Zagreb, capital of the highly vulnerable northern province declared "In historic times which may be near, Croat ranks stand united."

In addition to the threat from Hungary, German troops quartered in Bulgaria since that nation fell into the Axis sphere early in March, have been shifted from the Turkish and Greek frontiers westward to face Yugoslavia on the East.

M. Matchek's acceptance of the vice premiership in the new anti-Nazi government was reported as General Simovitch order Yugoslavs to remain on the threshold of their homes and, "if destiny orders" give their lives to the fatherland.

The government readied its 1,250,000 soldiers as midnight passed without any apparent change in what Nazi circles themselves had described as "desperate and hopeless" German-Yugoslav relations.

A Croat negotiator was said to have left tonight with General Simovitch's approval of M. Matchek's conditions for affiliating with the government.

main

German circles said negotiations with Belgrade had been broken off Sunday night and had not been resumed since.

It was estimated that 3,000 Italians and Germans alone left in loaded trains for Germany, while other nationalities fled into Turkey, Greece and other Balkan neighbors of this kingdom.

Thousands of peasants, violating the Premier's proclamation banning all but official evacuations, jammed trains for the provinces.

The Swedish, Hungarian and Italian Ministers bade good-bye to their families, and the American Minister, Arthur Bliss Lane, saw his diplomatic friends off.

Many Britons were gathered about the compartment occupied by one of their couriers in Herr von Heeren's car. Three American couriers also left on the same train.

Early today thousands of persons still stood massed in the train sheds patiently waiting any kind of transport out of the capital.

Many carried baby carriages, bicycles, bedding, furniture and other luggage. Animals mingled with Serb soldiers headed for the frontiers.

Outside in the streets other hundreds of disappointed would-be travelers slept on carts loaded with their luggage.

General Simovitch broadcast amid reports—unconfirmed in Yugoslav and German official quarters—that Adolf Hitler would serve an ultimatum demanding that Yugoslavia demobilize her army.

#### *Hungarians Ordered Home*

The Hungarian wireless appealed to all Hungarians in Yugoslavia to return home. The German air line Luft-hansa resumed service to Belgrade "until further notice," presumably to enable a hurried evacuation of the remaining German diplomats.

Some diplomatic informants expressed the opinion that they expected no real danger to be present here before ten days' time because Germany was not yet fully prepared for action.

To all State and local authorities and the clergy General Simovitch ordered: "Remain at your posts—no matter what happens."

"In connection with alarmist news spread about our country by foreign agents to bring unrest among our people and officials, I order all people to ignore the false news being circulated," the Premier said.

"There is no reason to worry. The royal government is trying to remain on friendly relations with all neighbors, and in the future follow this course.

"The population should remain calm and continue daily work and not allow themselves to be troubled by unfounded rumors spread abroad.

"Therefore, I forbid all exodus from domiciles, all leaving of homes, because there is no reason for such a step and it will have dangerous consequences.

"In the interest of the State, the people all are required to watch their homes; if destiny orders to give their lives for the good of their homes, fatherland, King and all the people."

Soldiers with carbines surrounded the capital's railway station to enforce his no-departure order.

The ominous picture of German-Yugoslav relations was presented by the secretary of the German Legation who said:

"The situation, which was serious but not hopeless yesterday, at noon today is desperate and practically hopeless."

"A decisive turn for the better is not impossible, but it would be an unexpected miracle."

But far from demobilizing, Yugoslavia was bolstering her defenses hourly. Serb soldiers in steel helmets and full campaign equipment paraded through Belgrade's streets.

Following the infantrymen were taxi loads of konijatajs, hardy guerrilla fighters whose fur caps bear a skull and crossbones, symbol for "unity alone saves Serbia."

These tough veterans paused in the streets to make brief speeches exhorting the people to support King Peter and his new government and to denounce Yugoslavia's "enemies."

It was recalled that Herr Hitler's reported impending demand for demobilization of the Yugoslav Army was the same that was said to have precipitated last week's upset of Yugoslavia's "Axis" government and the catapulting of Peter II to the throne.

Government leaders were understood to be worried over the problem of what to do with Yugoslavia's 700,000 German minority in the event of war. These people live principally along the frontiers with old Austria and Nazi-dominated Hungary.

#### **HITLER HAS TO CHOOSE**

The ominous undertone of General Simovitch's broadcast last night to the Yugoslav people is clear witness to the gravity with which the Belgrade Government views the crisis with Germany. In his proclamation urging calm the Premier called upon his people to "give their lives," if destiny so ordered it, "for the good of their homes, their fatherland and King." A correspondent in Belgrade describes the spirit of the people as one of "persistent determination and unwavering resistance" in the face of a continued German press and radio campaign equalled in fury only by that devoted to the attempt to soften up Czecho-Slovakia and Poland.

While it is reported from Berlin that there are no specific developments to indicate that the crisis cannot be solved by diplomatic means, the outlook is darkly threatening. The German Minister has left Belgrade, the Yugoslav Minister has been recalled from Berlin, Germans and Italians in all parts of Yugoslavia have been peremptorily ordered home. All the outward signs point to war, perhaps within the week, but there are other signs that suggest hesitation on Hitler's part and the possibility of delay. Plans for military invasion of Czecho-Slovakia, Poland and the Low Countries were prepared long in advance, but in Yugoslavia Hitler counted on a bloodless conquest. Here he is up against a wholly unexpected hurdle, growing higher by the minute, and before making the fateful leap he has to weigh risks, difficulties and resistances he never thought to encounter.

Here, too, he has the plight of Italy to consider. While the original German plan to subdue Yugoslavia contemptuously disregarded Italian interests in the neighboring peninsula, its failure has greatly increased Italy's peril. It is not surprising that Italian comment on the Yugoslav crisis is restrained, and it would be logical if Rome were begging Berlin to do nothing precipitate. Even without reports that Serb troops are concentrating on the Albanian frontier, within sight of the embattled Greeks, it is obvious that the first counter-move to a German invasion



would be a deadly drive of Yugoslav, Greek and British forces to push the tottering Italians out of Albania. Whatever the outcome of the fight-to-a-finish that would inevitably follow an attack on Yugoslavia, the immediate result would be the loss of the last of Italy's colonial possessions.

The first move across the Yugoslav frontier will be a decisive move, the first battle in an all-out Balkan war. Hitler may well hesitate before embarking on a campaign that must be vast, costly and bristling with dangers as unforeseeable as the surprise turn in Belgrade.

(Editorial)

## YUGOSLAV MINISTER IN GERMANY LEAVES

**Andritch Visits Foreign Office Before Going to Belgrade—Relations More Tense—Nazi Press Assails Serbs—New Regime Held Responsible for Hostile Action—Croats Exempt From Attacks.**

BY GUDO ENDERIS

BERLIN, March 31—The Berlin-Belgrade impasse as viewed here showed no signs of relaxing over the weekend and the anti-German demonstrations reported from various points in Yugoslavia in newspaper captions would seem to indicate that the situation has become even more embittered.

Along with Italy, the Reich Government has ordered the evacuation of German nationals from Belgrade and other points, the German colony of Belgrade, 1,100 strong, having left that capital last night. Other units are being instructed to prepare for an early departure. There are about 20,000 German subjects among the 600,000 "Volk Germans" in Yugoslavia.

Dr. Ivo Andritch, Yugoslav Minister to Berlin, has left for Belgrade to confer with his government. Before leaving he made several calls at the German Foreign Office. Viktor von Heeren, the German Minister to Belgrade, was still at his post today. [A dispatch from Belgrade said that Herr von Heeren left the Yugoslav capital last night.] The Yugoslav frontier opposite Styria has been closed by the Belgrade government, according to reports from Graz.

### *Belgrade Held Responsible*

If the situation reflects a marked increase in acrimony tonight, the sole reason, in German opinion, must be looked for in the anti-German demonstrations. The new regime in Belgrade is held responsible here for these alleged hostile manifestations and while they are believed to represent outcroppings of Serbian chauvinism German official resentment over them is principally due to the Belgrade government's failure to disavow alleged attacks on German nationals and the violent anti-German tendency of the Yugoslav press.

The Croats are exempted from these strictures and the alleged pro-German orientation of Vladimir Matschek's Croat Peasant party is played off against the open hostility of the Serbian element. The alleged friendly attitude of the Croats, however, is not stressed officially as the Reich government at present obviously prefers to maintain an attitude of detachment on matters affecting Yugoslav international affairs.

What was indicated, however, without reserve was official impatience with the reported anti-German manifestations and the apparent inability or disinclination of the Belgrade regime to suppress them. German tolerance to this hostility, it was stated, was bound to come to

an end and only an unequivocal disavowal from Belgrade could convince the Wilhelmstrasse of Belgrade's sincerity.

The alleged arrests of so-called pro-German journalists, it was suggested, could only be accepted as constituting an added affront to the Reich and as giving material support to the suspicions that the new regime was not seriously concerned with curbing the influence of the Serbian jingoes who are believed here to be responsible for the crisis.

It was reported today that the new government had initiated diplomatic contacts with the Reich, although a definitive declaration of its position as a signatory of the three-power pact was still being awaited. That signature was pledged by the former Yugoslav Government and, in the German view, it has legally committed Yugoslavia. By virtue of it she also became an ally of the Axis powers.

### *Role Remains Uncertain*

Whether she intends to live up to that commitment is another question, it was also stated. It was not revealed in official quarters whether the Simovitch government has so far given the Reich any assurances regarding the course of its foreign policy or whether it intends to cooperate with the Axis powers and Bulgaria, Rumania and Hungary in fulfilling the implications of the Three-Power Pact.

The situation in Yugoslavia, it was alleged, reflects the unmistakable influence of pan-Serbian chauvinism which, it was said, traditionally feeds on international tensions and invariably seeks to find foreign allies prepared to further its aspirations. As the Axis powers and their European allies, which are neighbors of Yugoslavia, are said to be primarily concerned with safeguarding the political and economic stability of South Eastern Europe, the Belgrade interlude especially assumes a major significance. There were no developments tonight, however, to indicate that the crisis is considered irretrievably beyond the resources of diplomacy, despite the acrimonious note that dominated it over the weekend.

## SERB "OUTRAGES" REPORTED

BERLIN, March 31 (AP)—Germany considers herself responsible for peace in Southeast Europe, including Yugoslavia, but the time to enforce peace has not yet arrived in the view of semi-official quarters here tonight.

"One could not go wrong," declared the commentary Dienst aus Deutschland, which has close foreign office connections, "in assuming that Germany in every respect holds fast to the basic conceptions of southeastern politics in the light of the ideology of the Three-Power Pact and holds herself responsible for peace, law and order in Southeast Europe."

Dienst aus Deutschland insisted that clarification of the situation "must be accomplished in Belgrade."

While some quarters believed the fate of Greece might be linked with Yugoslavia, the commentary pointed out that "it is a noteworthy fact that German citizens in Greece have not been advised to come home on the grounds that they, unlike in Yugoslavia, have not been terrified in public riots."

Adolf Hitler's newspaper, the Voelkischer Beobachter, declared that "Serbs knock down anyone who speaks German; German business establishments are wrecked and plundered and German farm homes are burned."

The Wilhelmstrasse spokesman himself explained that "the time for Germany to take a stand has not arrived"

A D N B German official news agency dispatch from Bucharest said that in Yugoslav regions bordering Rumania Serbs had looted and demolished German ships and burned farmsteads under the eyes of local authorities

This account said the "mobs" shouted "We'll hang all Germans but we are afraid there are too few trees"

### ITALIANS TO BE REMOVED

ROME, March 31 (AP)—All Italians living in Yugoslavia will be removed by tomorrow, Stefani, official Italian news agency, said tonight

The first group of Italian evacuees reached Trieste yesterday from Zagreb and said the Croat capital was calm

Forty more families arrived there today from other Croat towns and from Belgrade

Stefani said they confirmed "the chaotic state in the Serb capital and the military nature of an extremely violent agitation"

The rest of the Italians residing in Yugoslavia, about 400 in number, are to be removed by special train tomorrow

### YUGOSLAVS HASTEN DEFENSE MEASURES

**General Mobilization of the Army to Put Nation on War Footing Held Imminent—Forces Are Seen United—General Staff Being Altered—Belgrade Schools Closed—To Be Turned Into Barracks.**

BY C L SULZBERGER

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia, March 31—A general mobilization of the Yugoslav Army that will place the country on a complete war footing is now believed to be imminent and is expected to be ordered Wednesday at midnight. It includes 1,200,000 men already under arms and about 300,000 to be called up when the final exemption lists are abolished

Already steps in this direction are being taken. Early this morning a military decree called to the colors those industrial workers who had previously been exempted at 9 30 A. M. the manager of the huge Trepcha mining works in Mitrovica received word of this order and the miners will report to headquarters as soon as possible

To avoid obstruction to traffic while the final stages of mobilization are going on, it is reliably reported that all traffic in the country will be suspended simultaneously with the completion of preparations

The requisition of private automobiles will be followed through. A great many cars were requisitioned March 9, shortly before the initial mobilization was carried out, summoning to the colors all men between 20 and 50 who had had military training. Already this category has been transcended and men well into their sixties have been called for semi-military duty.

#### *Army Appears Unified*

The army appears solid and unified despite any internal difficulties which may prevail in the country for the moment.

Thousands of Croat and Slovene soldiers are being transported to the southern sections while Serbs from Sumadija travel north.

The General Staff is being unified. General Petar Kostich, former Chief of Staff who was arrested after the recent coup, has now been released but retired from all functions. General Kostich was reportedly inclined to defeatism. General Alexander Stojanovitch of the General Staff has also been pensioned. Generals Mihailo Bodi and Dmitri Zivkovitch, who had been previously retired, have been recalled to active service

All Belgrade schools were ordered closed today, presumably to be transformed into barracks. Children are already being evacuated by their families but public evacuation cannot be expected, in view of Premier Dusan Simovitch's proclamation demanding that the population remain at their homes and defend them

#### *Preparations Near Completion*

Military preparations are now in the phase of completion since the major job has already been accomplished. Almost all military airplanes had previously been moved to new secret bases from their regular landing fields. At least 1,000,000 men were mobilized during the Cvetkovitch government's rule to reduce the possibility of military opposition to the Axis treaty by confining the soldiers to barracks

The Croats have been extensively called up and sent to strategic bases. It is believed that between 200,000 and 300,000 Croats are now in the army and a large portion of them are stationed in the south

So far, no blackout precautions have been taken but the Belgrade radio is emphasizing instructions on how to act during air raids

### SOFIA FEARS FOR BELGRADE

**Feel Only a Strong Leader Can Save Yugoslavia From Disaster.**

SOFIA, Bulgaria, March 31—The general opinion here of the Yugoslav situation is that, while it is still obscure to outsiders, nevertheless, the wholesale departure of Italians and Germans shows the relations between Yugoslavia and the Axis are worsening and Yugoslavia is heading toward a decisive moment in her history.

It is said here that only a strong leader with the support of the entire population can save the country from catastrophe

The allegation that food requirements of the German occupation army are creating starvation conditions in Bulgaria is indignantly denied today in the press, which reports the arrival of large quantities of Russian foodstuffs for that army at Bulgarian ports.

**ROME EFFORTS TO CURB NAZIS FAILING AS BERLIN RAGES AT YUGOSLAV "TERROR"; U. S. TO REJECT AXIS SHIP PROTESTS**

**Belgrade Is Firm—Goes On Preparing for War While Denying German Charges—Action Is Expected Soon—Serb-Croat Unity Is Gaining as Nazi Troops Mass on the Yugoslav Frontier.**

BY RAY BROCK

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia, April 1—An eleventh-hour attempt by Italy to halt Germany's apparent headlong plunge into war with Yugoslavia through mediation by Premier Mussolini in Rome appeared doomed at the

outset tonight by the reported statement of a German Legation spokesman that "the situation is hopeless."

[Berlin viewed events in Yugoslavia as evidence of a progressive intensification of German-Yugoslav tension. The German press headlined false reports that British Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden was in Belgrade and gave prominence to reports of mistreatment of Germans in Yugoslavia. Official quarters declared such events were not compatible with Yugoslavia's status as a formal adherent to the three-power pact.]

The Italian peace offensive was apparently launched during the morning by the Italian Minister, Giorgio Mammeli, with the suggestion that Premier General Dusan Simovitch and Foreign Minister Mornicilo Nincitch ask Signor Mussolini to act as Axis mediator in the Yugoslav-German situation. The Yugoslav Government has not rejected the proposal, according to reliable information from usually well-informed sources, but there was no confirmation of Italian-inspired reports that Vice Premier Slovdan Yovanovitch would be instructed to go to Rome to lay the entire case before the Italian Premier.

#### *Atrocity Charges Noted*

The gravity of German-Yugoslav relations since the recall yesterday of the German Minister, Viktor von Heeren, was emphasized tonight by German radio reports—following the pre-Poland pattern—of the wildest disorder in Yugoslavia, numberless atrocities against German minorities in the country, including the pillaging and burning of villages and shops, the arrest of German minority "Fuehrers" and outright murder of Germans in the Yugoslav Vovvodina.

While these reports were proved baseless in their entirety by the thoroughly reliable telephoned information from the districts allegedly involved, and the official Yugoslav news agency flatly denied them, Yugoslav Government circles took the gravest view of the situation, which appeared to be deteriorating with awful speed.

The Italian effort was understood to have been dictated by the Yugoslav trump—that is, the fact that the Yugoslav Army can and probably will strike for Durazzo, Albania, the moment German troops violate Yugoslav frontiers in the northeast and southwest. Italian diplomats here were understood to have counseled caution to Herr von Heeren, recalled German envoy, before his sudden departure for Berlin. Herr von Heeren, however, acting under orders from the Wilhelmstrasse, was able to offer the Italians no comfort and left for Germany as a German Legation spokesman allegedly informed a neutral diplomatic source that "the situation is hopeless."

D. N. B., German official news agency, and German official radios throughout the day carried reports that both British Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden and General Sir John G. Dill, Chief of the British Imperial General Staff, were in Belgrade. Since this report was untrue—it was denied by the British Legation and authoritative Yugoslav quarters—informed quarters here took the view that Germany was seeking a further pretext for a worsening of Yugoslav-German relations.

Yugoslavia technically is still a partner of Germany under the Vienna pact, signed by the Cvetkovitch government—which pact will be respected, according to authoritative Yugoslav sources—and a visit from Secretary Eden and General Sir John at this time, technically at least, would violate the spirit of the treaty.

[Mr. Eden was received last night in Athens by King George of Greece, a United Press dispatch said.]

#### *New Nazi Envoy Talked Of*

German and Foreign Office sources reported the probable appointment of a new German Minister—said to be Ulrich von Hassell, former envoy to Rome—as the successor to Herr von Heeren, whose recall is understood to have been due in part at least to incompetence. Herr von Heeren apparently misled Berlin completely about the spirit of the Yugoslav Army and people before the signing of the Vienna pact.

Meantime, there was an overnight change for the better in the Serbian-Croat situation, and it is now understood that Vice Premier Vladimir Matchek will dispatch one of his party leaders to Belgrade to take the first Vice Premiership if M. Matchek decides at the last moment not to take it himself. The Croat peasant leader conferred throughout the day with his party lieutenants at his Kupinech farm, and well-informed Zagreb sources said that Ivo Subasitch, the Ban (Governor) of Croatia, was the most likely nominee for the Vice Presidency if M. Matchek refused it. There was another report that M. Koshotitch, a party vice president, would take the government post.

M. Matchek, it is said, wishes to remain in Zagreb for two reasons—he is believed to fear an attempted coup in Croatia by the Frankovci Fascist organization if he goes to Belgrade, and, second, he thinks it is still too soon to ally himself personally with the man who overthrew his personal friends, the former Regent Paul and Dragisha Cvetkovitch, with whom he signed the Serbian-Croat Agreement. With M. Matchek's blessing almost any Croat could enter the government in his place to preserve Serbian-Croat unity, although any government without M. Matchek is the weaker.

General Simovitch's government authorized pensions for M. Cvetkovitch, former Foreign Minister Alexander Cincar-Markovitch, former War Minister General Peter Pestich, and several other ousted Ministers, thus formally dotting the "i's" and crossing the "t's" over the coup d'etat that swept them out of office and into disgrace last Thursday.

Information from neutral diplomatic sources here spoke of the probability of some kind of three-cornered declaration or pact between Yugoslavia, Soviet Russia and Turkey. Milan Gavrilovitch, named by General Simovitch to a Ministry without Portfolio, was reliably reported to be in Ankara, after which it was said he would return to Moscow, where he has been as the Yugoslav Minister.

Meantime, there were reports in usually well-informed political circles here that General Simovitch would shortly summon a special Crown Council meeting to consider the national emergency and the Serbian-Croat situation. According to reliable information, the three Croat Ministers, Dr. Juraj Shutel, Ivan Andres and Barisha Smoljan, will return to Belgrade forthwith to join the fourth Torbor to present a picture of Serbian-Croat solidarity at a critical moment.

The Serbian Democrat, Radical and Nationalist members of the government, according to this information, shortly will issue a formal declaration approving the Serbian-Croat agreement undertaken by M. Matchek and M. Cvetkovitch, ending the long political feud between these parties and the Croat Peasant movement. M. Matchek is said to have informed one of his party lieutenants that General Simovitch had assured him that the new government would take all possible steps to avoid war with Germany.

While the internal situation was not finally resolved, Yugoslav-German relations appeared to be uncomfortably clean cut—at an impasse—and one neutral diplomatic source shortened his previous estimate of fifteen to twenty-five days before hostilities to a prophecy that fighting might begin this week

### ALL SHOW GRAVE CONCERN

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia, April 1 (AP)—The Yugoslav Government issued today a restrained denial of German charges that terrorism had been unleashed against German residents. Diplomats, government officials and plain citizens alike expressed grave concern over the implications of the Nazi word-barrage

Yugoslav warplanes circled over the capital all day, and young King Peter moved to consolidate his hold by abolishing the Senate—composed mainly of allies of the old Cvetkovitch Government of capitulation—and by promoting to high ranks the Army men who engineered last Thursday's overthrow of the "Axis" Government.

New Yugoslav troop trains headed southeast and north to the frontiers. The movement gained momentum when travelers from Bulgaria told of mass troop movements in that Axis-occupied country.

A passenger on the famed Simplon Express, one of the best trains in Europe, said it had been delayed sixteen hours en route to Istanbul by the movement of German and Bulgarian troops toward the Turkish and Yugoslav frontiers. He said thousands of German and Bulgarian soldiers were on the same troop trains and that all of Bulgaria was seething with military activity.

The Nazi expeditionary force, he said, is now heading most of its strength toward Yugoslavia and away from the Bulgarian-Greek border. There were diplomatic reports from Bucharest that a vast wedge of fast tanks was being driven into the corner of Rumania, which juts into Northeastern Yugoslavia.

### YUGOSLAVS IN RUSH TO A WAR FOOTING

**Mobilization to Be Completed by Tomorrow—Cities Are Emptied of Manhood—"Down With Hitler!" Cry—Croats Are Among Officers Promoted—Country Has 600 Planes for Warfare.**

BY C L SULZBERGER

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia, April 1—On Thursday Yugoslavia will be on a war footing. All day long new recruits marched through the streets of Belgrade in their dun-colored uniforms, wearing French style helmets and swinging along to the strains of their newest marching chant.

"Listen, girl I love," it goes, "Hitler has come to our frontiers, but the Serbs are standing there with guns to see how many ribs the Germans have."

Cart horses brought in from the Vojvodina plain clattered through the Slabija Square all night, hauling guns and baggage. A patrol of soldiers is guarding the railroad station which is continually jammed with departing troops, refugees and their families.

The city is emptying its manpower into the Army. The main hotels are relatively deserted. German tourists are no longer a commonplace. Bartenders, waiters and porters are serving with the colors.

### *Spirit of Men High*

Although their equipment is miserable compared with anything employed by the mechanized armies of the major powers, the spirit of the men appears magnificent. Most of the soldiers passing through Belgrade now are Serbs, and they are a proud race of fighters. They will rarely accept jobs as household servants, they feed on pepper and raw plum alcohol; breaking glasses and heads is their specialty. They are enthusiastic for the conflict that they believe is coming.

The National University is closed, and many of the professors, aged well into the fifties, are now in uniform. One 63-year old headwaiter has been called into the sanitary service.

Legations are putting their papers into order and moving some and burning others. One newspaper is making plans for a small provincial edition if Belgrade has to be abandoned. One by one the telephone lines of the city are being requisitioned by the military. All automobile tires have been commandeered.

The mobilization, as it is reflected in the Serbian parts, is an expression of the poplar will. From Kossovska Mitrovica to Belgrade the soldiers are shouting, "Down with Hitler!" as they lug their bundles to the depots.

One poor peasant from the Shumadija arrived in the capital today in a hired car for which he had paid 350 dinars in order to present himself a day early.

Despite the constant shifts in the diplomatic picture, and the steady stream of hot and cold cafe rumors, the general atmosphere is one of imminent war. A series of army promotions was published today. Colonel Yivan Knevivitch, brother of the new court master and participant in last week's coup, was named to the general staff. In an effort to soothe the worried Croats a number of their officers are being promoted to the rank of colonel and general.

### *Mobilization Without Notice*

It is now understood there will be no public proclamation of the anticipated general mobilization orders tomorrow midnight. It is believed this will take the form of final completion of what has been technically described as the "activization" schedule. But Thursday all men who can bear arms and receive equipment and uniforms will be with the colors.

In theory Yugoslavia can raise an army of 2,500,000, but there is neither equipment nor uniforms for this many soldiers, and it is unlikely that more than 1,800,000 at the very peak can be called up. The country has about 600 war planes in useable condition. They include some Hurricane and Messerschmitt fighters.

Although the German General Staff was caught flat-footed by this sudden political revolution here, the Nazis are rushing to rearrange their troop dispositions to handle an emergency. Some divisions in Bulgaria, the bulk in the vicinity of Petritch Nevrokop, Svilugrad and Kiustendil, are now being moved west of the Struma River to reinforce the troops on the Yugoslav border.

It is clear to military experts here that if war comes the Nazis will seek to cut through the ravines and passes east of the Vardar and Moravia valleys, attempting to pinch off defending units in their flight over the ranges into the Kossovo and Pelagonian plains.

The idea would be to run a wedge between Yugoslavia and Greece and pile in on the Yugoslavs if they attacked Albania. But until the Germans can get more troops into the lines in the north it is not likely they would try anything.

A full moon is due in a few days and this could provide Reichsfuehrer Hitler with a fine opportunity for night bombing. But until his armies are completely ready for war with this country—and no one knows how long this will take—it is thought he will refrain even from air action.

#### *Offensive Limits Foreseen*

It is believed the Germans will also launch a simultaneous drive on Salonika when they attack Yugoslav Macedonia—if they do—to cut off any future combination of the Serbs, Greeks and British in that sector.

The German Air Force in Bulgaria is not yet exceedingly strong and it is not believed to number much more than 600 planes. Although new aircraft could be swiftly brought in, it is doubtful whether, even if Germany moved down the major part of the 100 divisions she boasts she could use for the Balkans, more than a fraction of these could be employed in Yugoslavia. The mountainous terrain, with its difficult transport problems, cannot serve more than a certain number of invading troops.

The Yugoslavs feel they could hold the Germans off in the south while gradually evacuating the north, and at the same time that they could get to Durazzo, on the Adriatic coast of Albania, in four or five days. They are counting on United States, and British material aid to hold out for six months.

No matter what the immediate outcome in case of an extended Balkan war, it should have the effect of creating a welcome diversion for the British troops. Every bomber put to use here relieves the intensity of the potential attack on the British Isles.

One thing that continues to interest the Yugoslavs is the Turkish attitude. It is quite likely that this will remain defensive. The Turkish military equipment is not as fitted for offense as for defensive action and the line of fortifications would not wisely be transcended.

What is more, the British not only wish to safeguard Istanbul and the Straits by avoiding reckless moves, but are in a position where they cannot expect the Turks to take the initiative. Under the terms and the secret clauses of the Ankara pact, British was supposed to give a specific amount of war material to the Turks. Dunkerque reduced Britain's equipment to a minimum.

The British had to choose between giving their available equipment to the Greeks or to the Turks. They selected the former and must perforce be satisfied with the slightly hesitant views of the latter until they can amend the situation.

### **NAZIS' ANGER RISES ON YUGOSLAV STAND**

**Berlin Charges Mistreatment of Germans Is a Deliberate Policy of "Partner" Talk With Eden Alleged—Dill Also in Belgrade, Press Asserts—Neighbor Reminded of Axis Adherence.**

BY C. BROOKS PETERS

BERLIN, April 1—The most recent developments in Yugoslavia are viewed in German quarters with increasing gravity, for instead of indicating a clarification of the situation they are said to point to a progressive intensification of German-Yugoslav tension.

The press reports in headlines the presence of British Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden in Belgrade. Dispatches under various datelines, such as Budapest, Graz and Linz,

declare all farms and villages on which racial Germans dwell have been burned to the ground and Germans mishandled and imprisoned, and that in one case the swastika was branded on the cheeks of a racial German.

[The United Press reported from Athens that Mr. Eden was received by King George of Greece there last night.]

In the districts inhabited by racial Germans, it is said here, a situation has developed that can only be termed catastrophic. Particularly serious, in the German view, is the report that the leaders of the German racial groups in Yugoslavia have been imprisoned or mobilized, so that German residents there are without leadership, while others are reported to be held as "hostages."

#### *Deliberate Incitement Charged*

This, it is commented here, appears to represent a well-planned action on the part of the Yugoslav Government designed to intensify anti-German agitation and demonstrations. The latter according to German reports, are not spontaneous.

In view of this situation, it was termed obvious in authoritative quarters that the Reich was in intimate consultation with all its allies concerning the events that could endanger the stability of Southeastern Europe.

The German Minister to Belgrade, Viktor von Heeren, was expected to arrive in Berlin tonight to report to his government. The Yugoslav Minister in Berlin, Ivo Andrić, has left for Belgrade. In informed quarters the return of the two ministers to their capitals is viewed as a further indication of the seriousness of the crisis.

If the report should be confirmed that General Sir John G. Dill, chief of the British Imperial General Staff, is in Belgrade, as well as Mr. Eden, the meaning and objective of that reported visit, as well as the political strivings of the new Yugoslav government, would be interestingly illuminated, the Germans remark.

It appears scarcely compatible with the tenets of the Three-Power Pact, to which Yugoslavia a week ago today formally adhered, and of which alliance she is now declared to be a member, if Belgrade were to receive not only the Foreign Minister of Britain but also the chief of staff of the British forces, it is asserted here.

#### *Belgrade's Silence Cited*

In view of the seriousness of developments in German-Yugoslav relations, it is considered surprising that the new Belgrade government has not yet expressed an opinion on the foreign implications of the internal Yugoslav situation. Since adhesion to the Tripartite Pact becomes effective immediately upon signing, it is contended here, Yugoslavia's fulfillment of her obligations under that pact cannot be subjected to discussion.

The Germans also acknowledge their awareness of the mobilization that is proceeding in Yugoslavia. Though official quarters in Belgrade attempted to deny that demonstrations had taken place, it is said here that the Yugoslav authorities evidently were endeavoring to take certain measures in practice, while theoretically backing away from them. Important in the German view, it is added, are the facts and not the unauthorized statements of the press or the individual Yugoslav politicians.

The report was spread abroad from Belgrade, for example, it was said, that the pro-German Yugoslav journalists, headed by a director of the Vreme, M. Gregoritch, had been released from jail. The truth is, the Germans add, that these journalists are still in prison.

The situation in Croatia, according to reports in Berlin, appears to be considerably different from that in old Serbia, for the Germans declare that the Croat population and its leaders are apparently still striving to maintain the greatest possible calm in the face of new events. As a result of this, it is added in German quarters, no demonstrations or incidents of considerable moment have occurred in Croatia.

Typical of front-page-captions in the press are the following: "Warmonger Eden in Belgrade; German border villages burning; systematic persecution of Germans increasing; incendiaries going from village to village; stream of refugees continues; arrests without reason, Germans no longer sure of their lives; riots against the Italians."

### **MOSCOW DENIES CONGRATULATING YUGOSLAVS, BUT SAYS GESTURE WOULD HAVE BEEN APT**

MOSCOW, April 1—The newspaper Pravda said today that the Yugoslav people were distinguished by a glorious past and were deserving of congratulations. However, added D. Zaslavsky, Pravda's political commentator, the Soviet Government had not sent a message to that effect to the new Yugoslav regime.

Mr. Zaslavsky characterized a United Press report from Belgrade that such a message of congratulation had been sent by the Soviet as a "chemically pure lie." He said the Soviet might well have sent its congratulations to Yugoslavia, but did not, "perhaps because it forgot or never thought of it."

Pravda's treatment of the Yugoslav report was unusual. Mr. Zaslavsky, one of the Soviet's best known political commentators, devoted nearly a column to more or less good-humored satirization of the report.

"The Yugoslav people," he wrote, "doubtless have a glorious past and are deserving of congratulations and there would be nothing astonishing in such congratulations had there been any. But no such congratulations were sent, perhaps because the Soviet Government forgot or did not think of sending them."

"The message was invented by a Bourgeois liar, although the lie did not serve any one but only placed the correspondent and his bosses in a ridiculous position."

Mr. Zaslavsky carefully distinguished the Yugoslav report from other alleged fabrications and said that, "unlike the usual malicious anti-Soviet slanderous inventions, it was not intended to cast aspersions on the Soviet Union."

"There is nothing malicious in the fact that the Soviet Union allegedly sent congratulations," he added. "It lacks the traditional anti-Soviet fantasy, being a falsehood due to habit and not necessity."

### **NAZI COMPROMISE DOUBTED**

#### **Hungary Sees Tension Grow on Belgrade—Refugees Arrive.**

BUDAPEST, Hungary, April 1—As seen from here the Yugoslav-Axis situation is judged to have taken a much more serious turn during the last twenty-four hours. But the Berlin correspondent of the newspaper Pester Lloyd claims that Germany has made allowances for any

eventuality. He says that compromise is not the German way of doing things.

Eleven hundred German refugees from Yugoslavia arrived here this morning aboard two Danube steamers. Several hundred persons were on the dock to meet the boats, including German Legation officials and representatives of the German organizations in Hungary. The boats left for Vienna with their passengers at 2 o'clock this afternoon.

### **THE TEMPO QUICKENS**

The Yugoslav drama is moving swiftly toward a climax. Berlin talks of a "grave crisis" and the Nazi press has broken out the same scare headlines about "atrocities" that were last seen before the invasions of Czecho-Slovakia and Poland. It may be true that Hitler is not ready to strike. It is certainly true that the Belgrade Government needs time to organize the forces of the nation to meet German attack. But events, once set in motion, have a way of overriding human schedules and attaining their own speed and momentum.

Two developments of great importance are hastening the showdown. Belgrade, it appears, is growing bolder rather than less bold in the face of danger. Not only does it favor a mere non-aggression pact with Germany instead of the alliance signed at Vienna, but apparently it intends to exclude Italy from such a pact, on the ground that "military necessity" may compel the Yugoslavs to join the Greeks and the British in an Albanian campaign. Obviously this creates a first-class dilemma for the Axis Powers by making it impossible for Germany to move without openly exposing her partner to one more deadly blow.

This boldness is partly the result of a favorable turn in the negotiations with the Croats. It has been apparent from the first that the final decision of Belgrade depended on the attitude of the big, powerful and militarily vulnerable Croat minority. The fact that with each day of crisis the Government takes a stronger stand against the Germans is the best proof of the truth of reports that the Croats are ready to support the Serbs.

This indicates statesmanship as well as firmness on the part of the new regime. The most noteworthy thing in the whole fast-evolving story is that the acts of the Government seem at every stage to have the full approval of the people. Every new development tends to make clearer that Yugoslavia has not only found its soul, in Mr. Churchill's phrase, but has also found leaders to express its will.

Until now the surrenders to Germany have been made by Governments without consultation with the people. We may be sure that these nations, too, share the feelings of the Serbs. If the Yugoslav example does nothing else—and already the revolt has changed the atmosphere like the breath of a fresh mountain wind—it will inevitably encourage other peoples captives of the Nazi war machine, to brave the risks of self-assertion. It is not by accident that the last country to be threatened by Hitler is the first to defy him. The Yugoslavs have had time to observe the contrast between the fate of all their neighbors who surrendered, and of the two who have resisted, the Greeks and the Turks.

(Editorial)



## BELGRADE SEES WAR AT HAND AS ROME EFFORTS COLLAPSE; FAST NAZI UNITS AT BORDER

**Cabinet Convened—Meets Urgently as Talks With Rome and Berlin Reach a Deadlock—Croats Swinging to Unity—Reich Motorized Troops Seen at 2 Points—"Reaction" in 24 Hours Is Forecast.**

BY RAY BROCK

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia, April 2—Italy's desperate last-minute attempt to avert war between Germany and Yugoslavia collapsed late today and Axis-Yugoslav diplomatic relations drew up to a halt as Premier Dusan Simovitch summoned an emergency Cabinet meeting to face a bleak outlook, described by high diplomatic sources as hopeless, with war inevitable.

The Italian Minister, Giorgio Mamelli, left the Yugoslav Foreign Office late this afternoon at the end of a one-hour visit, and ministerial conferences began immediately at the Presidency. General Simovitch summoned the Cabinet at 7:25 o'clock. The session ended at 9:30. At a late hour no communiqué had been issued.

Sources close to the government disclosed tonight that Italo-Yugoslav and German-Yugoslav diplomatic talks were at an impasse—"completely stalemated"—and that Premier Mussolini's frantic efforts to lure Yugoslavia's Premier or some other members of his government to Rome for conversations have come to naught.

Usually well-informed Italian sources, which professed hope that Signor Mussolini's efforts would be successful and that German-Yugoslav hostilities could be averted, professed tonight: "It cannot be stopped now. We are resigned to war."

[Meanwhile, formidable German troop concentrations were reported in the Southwestern Rumanian Banat opposite the Yugoslav town of Bela Crkva and at Szeged in Southern Hungary. Germany indicated the Yugoslav crisis had reached the greatest gravity. The Reich's "reaction" might be expected within twenty-four hours. The United Press reported from Berlin. The Nazi press carried large headlines about alleged Serbian atrocities against "racial Germans."]

One high neutral diplomat, noted for his caution, emphasized his personal belief in the inevitability of war, ruling out all eleventh-hour miracles.

### *One Glimmer of Hope*

In the opinion of this correspondent, however, there is one faint glimmer of hope—that the message being borne to Adolf Hitler by the Yugoslav Minister to Germany. Ivo Andritch, may postpone German invasion for a matter of days or even longer. M. Andritch left Belgrade late last night for Berlin bearing a note for Herr Hitler from General Simovitch.

This message, summing up Yugoslavia's position, is aimed at dissipating, in so far as possible, the celebrated impatience of the Reich leader and introducing a note of common sense—as a basis for negotiations if possible and for the record if the Reich drives headlong into hostilities as it seems determined to do tonight.

The Yugoslav note, according to information disclosed to this correspondent late tonight by reliable sources close to the Simovitch government, takes the following general line:

Yugoslavia still hopes even at this hour to preserve her neutrality at all costs short of sacrifice of her independence and integrity; Yugoslavia is willing, even eager, to cooperate with the Third Reich, placing her rail lines

at Germany's disposal for transport of foodstuffs and raw materials, but the passage of war materiel and troops is out of the question, Yugoslavia as always is willing to cooperate economically with Germany; Yugoslavia never will declare war on Germany unless attacked, but will resist all unprovoked aggression. Finally, Yugoslavia will respect all outstanding "public and open" agreements with all her neighbors and stands ready to discuss all problems with neighboring powers at all times.

"I think war in the Balkans," said this correspondent's informant, "will be useless, even worse than useless for Germany, bad for Yugoslavia and tragic for Italy. Nevertheless, I am convinced that it is quite inevitable and imminent."

### *German Fears Cited*

Viktor von Heeren, in his final conversation with Momcilo Nincitch, the new Yugoslav Foreign Minister, on Monday before his recall to Berlin, is understood to have told the Foreign Minister that Germany considers that war must be waged against Yugoslavia in order to prevent a British offensive in the Balkans from Yugoslav and Greek bases.

M. Nincitch is reliably reported to have pointed out to Herr von Heeren that according to military intelligence the British forces in Greece are insufficient to wage a Balkan offensive against Germany unless Yugoslavia, Greece and Turkey join in and that all three Balkan powers were firmly resolved to preserve their neutrality unless attacked.

Herr von Heeren is understood to have replied that the Wilhelmstrasse felt otherwise, whereupon he left the Foreign Office for the last time. German-Yugoslav diplomatic conversations then ceased. The German Charge d'Affaires, Dr. Gert Feine has not visited the Foreign Office since his installation upon Herr von Heeren's departure.

ROME reports tonight after direct contact between Italy and Yugoslavia the outlook was "hopeful," found absolutely no confirmation here. On the contrary, information from government sources, Belgrade diplomats and high political quarters, pointed directly to continued deterioration of diplomatic relations and military preparations leading only in one direction—to war.

The opinion of well-informed observers here was that the Rome reports were inspired by frantic Italian attempts to halt at all costs a war which can only mean annihilation or capture of Italy's expeditionary force of 350,000 men in Albania by a powerful Yugoslav Army, poised in Macedonia and Montenegro and eager to come to grips with the Italians, for whom Yugoslav soldiers have only contempt.

### *Matchek's Aid Expected*

In the most critical moment in all Yugoslav history the nation appeared to be solidly united. Reports from Zagreb this evening said Vice Premier Vladimir Matchek would come to Belgrade tomorrow or at the latest Friday either to join the government or to install one of his party lieutenants in the government with his blessings. Some Independent Democratic party sources with extremely good channels to Zagreb and the Croat Peasant party headquarters insisted tonight that M. Matchek had at last made up his mind to take the Vice Premiership.

It is now known that General Simovitch, despite considerable opposition from M. Matchek's political enemies among the Serbian parties, has convinced the majority of his government that M. Matchek's desires must be

satisfied—the increase of Croatia's political influence in the government, the appointment of certain Croat junior officers to high military staff positions and the cession of some Slovene and Bachka counties to Croatia. Three of M. Matchek's party lieutenants, Dr Juraš Shutej, Finance Minister M. Koshotitch, a party vice president, and Barisha Smoljan, returned to Belgrade today, following yesterday's conference with M. Matchek and joined in tonight's session of the Cabinet.

The Croat newspapers made a complete somersault today, stressing Yugoslav unity and supplanting the German D. N. B. and Italian Stafani Agency dispatches of yesterday with British Reuter News agency dispatches, Belgrade reports of activities of young King Peter and Premier Simovitch.

Even German and Italian observers in Belgrade granted today that the "Croat crisis," built up the German press and radio into enormous proportions, has fallen into pieces and that Serbia, Croatia and Slovenia are knitted together in a solid front behind the government of General Simovitch and Peter II.

The Serbian opposition has been brought swiftly to heel by General Simovitch, according to reliable political informants tonight. The government will issue a reaffirmation of the Serbo-Croat "sporazum" of 1939 or the Serbian Radicals, Independent Democrats and Nationalist members of the government will write and publish a manifesto acclaiming the Serbo-Croat agreement which they have rigidly opposed since the former Prince Regent Paul, the former Premier Dragisha Cvetkovitch and Vice Premier Matchek signed it.

#### *Eden Report Denied*

While the German radio continued its tirade against Serbia, along with reports that Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden and General Sir John G. Dill were in Belgrade, it was firmly established that neither the British nor General Dill had been in Yugoslavia, nor were they likely to come here within the near future. The origin of the Eden-Dill report appears to have been the visit last week of Terence Shone, the former First Secretary in the Belgrade British Legation and now Counselor at Cairo, who has returned here again.

Mr. Shone is tall, dark and handsome, in the Eden manner, and has a preference for black Homburg hats. It seems likely that some impressionable German resident or Yugoslav-German informant saw Mr. Shone during his frequent visits to the legation and spread the news that Mr. Eden or his double was in Belgrade.

A British Legation spokesman here tonight said that the odds were "99 to 1" against the visit of Mr. Eden and General Dill at this time because such a visit would only serve to antagonize further the already outraged Germans, and, second, "things are now beyond the conversational stage."

Belgrade diplomatic circles gave considerable credence, however, tonight to reports of a forthcoming Yugoslav-Turkish declaration of friendship. The possibility of a Yugoslav-Turkish-Russian declaration was not ruled out by Yugoslav Minister to Moscow Milan Gavrilovitch's trip from Moscow to Ankara was reported among sources close to the government as "highly satisfying."

As Axis-Yugoslav diplomatic relations sloped rapidly downhill tonight and all the usually reliable weathervanes pointed straight toward their eventual rupture and war, the economic machinery of Yugoslavia and Germany continued to function. It was learned tonight that a German agent, named Herr Flanbaum, has come to Belgrade to

purchase foodstuffs for German troops in Bulgaria and is still in the Yugoslav capital and still seeking to buy what surplus meat is available since requisitioning started by the army.

The temper of the people remained even and calm. This correspondent was called aside tonight by the 50-year-old concierge of the hotel:

"Here," he said, indicating the jagged scar on his chin, "That is a Hungarian bayonet."

"Here," he said, pointing to his shoulder, "is another bayonet."

"And here," indicating his groin, "I had a machine-gun bullet. Tonight I am awaiting my call to the Army again. I was a peasant when they attacked us before, so I understand the minds of the peasants. At the end of the last war all the men came back from the front to demand a job, pension or decoration. The peasants wanted only one thing—their land, with their animals and peace."

"They are a peaceful people, our peasants, but when their homes are threatened and their land, they are the most ferocious people in the world. The Germans will learn that. Every man old enough and not too old to hold a rifle and thrust a bayonet will be on the front. It will be bitter and bloody, and it may last a long time, but we shall go back to our land, our own land and till it ourselves. You will see \* \* \*

#### **MATCHEK SAID TO FEAR WAR**

**Croat Leader Contends Situation Is "Very, Very Serious".**

ZAGREB, Yugoslavia, April 2 (AP)—Yugoslavia's chances of peace with Germany are extremely slim, Vladimir Matchek was quoted as declaring tonight to persons who conferred with him in this Croatian capital.

M. Matchek, the old Croat peasant leader who has not yet fully decided to accept the proffered Vice Premiership in the new Yugoslav Government, was said by these reliable informants to have declared:

"It is still possible to preserve peace, but the situation is very, very serious."

The new Minister of Commerce, Ivan Andres, who also is a Croat, was reported to have expressed a similar view.

M. Matchek's associates said he favored peace at almost any cost and believed that if the new government held full public confidence it could safely affirm the pact which its predecessors made with the Axis. Other Croat leaders remained silent on this point.

M. Matchek was optimistic that his own conditions for entering the government would be met, and was awaiting the return of his emissary from talks in Belgrade with Premier Dusan Simovitch.

M. Matchek said his principal demand was for a regency council so that the authority behind the government and King could be established clearly.

The question asked by each newcomer to Zagreb is: "Will the Croats fight if Yugoslavia is attacked?"

Perhaps the best answer was given by a Croat business man, who replied:

"Most of the troops in this section are Serbs. The Croat soldiers are mostly in Serbia. The Croat leaders are for peace. The only question is whether Croat soldiers away from home will obey orders of their commanders."

Zagreb, which is almost within artillery range of the German frontier, goes about its business calmly.



Although trucks rolled through the streets today with munitions, uniforms and military equipment, there was none of the bustle and excitement of Belgrade.

Nearly all foreigners except consular officials already have left, and the main hotels are nearly empty. Only five or six Americans are here besides the consular staff.

There were many rumors afloat, including one that fifty or sixty fifth columnists were arrested last night and that all passenger trains would be suspended after tonight. Neither was confirmed, however.

## NAZI TROOPS MASS AT BORDER POINTS

**Fast Units Sent to Southwest Banat, Opposite Yugoslavia—Others in South Hungary—Belgrade is Preparing—Planes Fly Over Capital All Day—Foreign Aircraft Seen Over Two Points.**

BY C L SULZBERGER

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia, April 2—The general impression among diplomatic and government circles today was that Yugoslavia would be forced into the war, and tonight it was feared this might be imminent.

No one can make any estimate as to the number of hours or days the crisis will continue in its present form. Military experts are still inclined to believe that Germany's armies were not ready for an attack on this front, and would not be in a state of preparedness for at least a week. Other sources, however, thought that the Nazi forces in Bulgaria had now been reconcentrated sufficiently to begin operations from that direction.

Troops and materiel rumbled in all directions over the Balkans today. The through-train from Belgrade to Istanbul was delayed sixteen hours by the shuttling of German and Bulgarian contingents in the vicinity of the Turkish frontier.

A considerable number of fast, light German tanks and auxiliary equipment moved to the Yugoslav frontier in the southwest corner of the Rumanian Banat across from the Yugoslav town of Bela Crkva. More Nazi tanks and trucks were reported to be entering Hungary, and twenty tanks are said to have been sighted in the streets of Budapest. Other divisions were said to be massing at Szeged, in Southern Hungary.

### *Planes Fly Over Belgrade*

An unusual number of Yugoslav war planes roared over Belgrade all day, obviously on the outlook for trouble. Foreign aircraft flew over two points of the country and alarms were sounded. At 11 30 o'clock this morning three planes were sighted over Skoplje and an alert was signaled. They were at too great a height to be fired upon and they cruised on up the Vardar Valley.

An unidentified plane flew over Susak on the Italian border and was fired upon by both Yugoslav and Italian batteries. The Belgrade radio and newspapers repeated lengthy instructions on air raid precautions.

Preparations of all sorts continue here. All officers, including reservists, are expected to be in uniform by tomorrow night. The members of the Sokol Patriotic Society are facilitating mobilization steps by handing out summonses in person to the peasants and assisting in the telephoning and mailing of others. If general mobilization

is decreed it will be signaled by the ringing of church bells throughout the country. But this may not be necessary since the "activization" has already worked out so well.

A special regiment has been formed among the Belgrade citizens for the defense of the capital. General Petar and General Milan Neditch, both former Ministers of War, left town in uniform today bound for active service near the Hungarian and Bulgarian frontiers.

The bridge over the Eneo River, dividing Fiume from Susak, has been mined at both ends, and the Yugoslavs have warned householders on this side to be ready to move at a moment's notice. Public records are being moved out of Belgrade to points many kilometers from the city.

Some of the hotels and buildings in the capital have been taken over by the military.

### *Little Nervousness Evident*

Remarkably little nervousness is manifest here and one would not judge from the attitude of the ordinary citizens that a crisis was at hand. Men now greet each other in the streets with the motto of the coup d'etat, "For King and Country."

Evacuation of refugees continues in all directions. German-speaking domestic servants in the capital disappeared to the villages in the Banat and Vojvodina. Two German-speaking villages in Bosnia are being evacuated on instructions from the Reich, and 456 families left today. Three thousand Italian refugees are waiting at Spalato for transport. The British Institute is moving out. The last women attached to the British Legation left tonight.

It is now impossible to obtain train reservations for either Greece or Turkey, and the railroad stations are perpetually jammed.

The Italian Institute in Zagreb abandoned its lectures. The German Legation has reduced its staff from 400 to twenty-six, including two newspapermen possessing diplomatic passports. A German source said the members of the legation planned to defend it "against mob rule," during any time intervening a possible withdrawal from the city and arrival of Nazi troops.

The German-language minority is demonstrating the old technique made familiar in Czecho-Slovakia and Poland. At Ruma, in the Vojvodina, an anti-Jewish demonstration was organized and an unsuccessful attempt was made to burn the synagogue. The Voelkischer Beobachter and the Graz radio are spreading fantastic reports about alleged atrocities by Serbs against the minority.

### *Minority Leaders Seized*

Great care has been taken by the Yugoslav Government to prevent untoward happenings in the German-speaking districts. Minority leaders all through the Banat have been taken into custody.

While the Germans had a rest camp at Zemun on the Sava when they were transporting their minorities from Rumania, it is said some of the Storm Troopers facilitating the exodus instructed the local minority in military manoeuvres, which were carried out by local Kulturbunds. Arms were distributed by trucks from the Zemun camp, it was said.

The Yugoslavs are watching this situation carefully and most of the German-speaking men who have been called up are in labor services.

## **SISTER OF LATE GEN. MITCHELL JOINS KOMITAJI: AMERICAN WOMAN IN YUGOSLAV CORPS OF DEATH**

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia, April 2 (AP)—Miss Ruth Mitchell, who identified herself as a sister of the late American flier, General "Billy" Mitchell, was sworn in today as the first foreign woman ever to join the revolutionary death-defying Komitaji

She received a phial of poison, because the Komitaji boasts that no member is ever taken alive, and became a member of the general staff as a dispatch rider for Kosta Pechanatz, the whitebearded leader of the organization

In the peasant hovel where he lives on the edge of Belgrade with the skeleton of one Komitaji hero, M Pechanatz, received Miss Mitchell, former wife of an Englishman, and initiated her into the secrets of one of the strangest societies of men and women in the world

[Mrs Martin Fladoes of Milwaukee, also a sister of the late American airman, said her sister Ruth had been in Belgrade for about a year and that her married name was Mrs Stanley Knowles She last heard of her by cable about two months ago]

M Pechanatz explained to Miss Mitchell how for 400 years the Komitaji harassed the Turks in guerrilla warfare and how the same methods would be used when and if the Germans crossed the Yugoslav frontiers.

Miss Mitchell watched him cross her name off the list of those who have applied for membership, explaining

"We just cross the name off, my girl, because we consider you dead when you become one of us We value our lives as nothing. We may all be dead in a few weeks I expect to die myself this time How about you?"

"I am willing, too," Miss Mitchell replied instantly

Then M Pechanatz, who as a Serb patriot in the World War dropped by parachute behind the Austrian lines to direct the men under him, told her how she and her comrades were expected to cooperate

"There are 38,000 men and women who wear the Komitaji uniform, but there are several hundred thousand more," Pechanatz said, "who are secret members"

Two of these are members of the Cabinet of the new Premier, General Dusan Simovitch, he said

When war comes the reckless men and women members of the Komitaji go ahead of the army, doing espionage work. They are experts in getting information out of prisoners If their own army falls back they stay behind, fighting by day and working at night The Komitaji under Serbian law has the right to demand food and lodging from any one and the right to carry firearms

## **CROATS RALLY TO SERBS' SIDE; HUNGARY'S PREMIER "SUICIDE"; BRITISH EVACUATE BENGAZI**

**Yugoslavs United—Matchek Takes Cabinet Post—  
Calls on Croats to Join the Colors—German Troops  
Massing—Belgrade Mobilization Final—Blackout  
Tested—3 Cities Declared to Be "Open".**

BY C L. SULZBERGER

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia, April 3—Vladimir Matchek, the bespectacled little leader of Yugoslavia's 5,000,000 Croats, decided today to rejoin the government in the post of First Vice Premier and called upon the military eligibles of his people to enter wholeheartedly into the

general mobilization that is being completed for the defense of the land against the threat of aggression.

[The Italian Government ordered the Italian Legation staff to leave Belgrade as Rome admitted failure of Premier Mussolini's eleventh-hour peace offensive The German Legation staff also left the Yugoslav capital]

After having conferred for hours with the western Catholic chiefs of this South Slav nation out at his Kupinech farm, M Matchek telephoned the Belgrade government his decision to join the Serbian stand, crystallized by the recent coup d'etat

At the same time he informed the president of the local Croat organization, the head of the Croat party and the officers of the semi-military corps and defense organizations that he had decided on his present course of action in the cause of peace. He said he wanted his adherents to answer their military summonses in order to protect Yugoslav national concepts He assured them that Croatia's rights not only had been guaranteed but extended "in great part" and requested his Agrarian following to obey "with discipline, order and peace"

### *Matchek Issues Appeal*

In his proclamation to the local principals of the Croats, who voluntarily quit the Austro-Hungarian Empire to join a South Slav union only to find difficulties that had heretofore prevented full cooperation, M Matchek said:

"I order all military reservists who are called to arms to answer immediately and without reserve to this summons All must make available to army commanders their horses, their cattle and their belongings, and the Croat Banovine guarantees their payment You must each remember that these are only safe precautions and in my labors I am only as strong as the Croat people who support me.

"I am a Christian and I remember the words of Christ: 'Happy are those who dwell in peace, for they will be called the sons of God'."

He added that despite all difficulties he favored the communal collaboration of interests in order to safeguard peace and alleviate the difficulties of the grave times of the moment

M. Matchek, who has sought to secure by passive resistance a full partnership with the Serbian rulers of the land, thus made perhaps the most important step of his career since he succeeded the murdered Stephan Raditch, as leader of the unhappy Croats

### *Solidarity Is Completed*

His collaboration and his orders to his lieutenants have completed the solidarity of this frequently divided land. Mobilization may now be accepted as a finished fact Yugoslavia, although hoping it will not come, is now ready for war.

Thus, M Matchek, who, although named to the new government, has so far failed to participate actively, has eliminated once and for all the possibility of a divided land as in Czecho-Slovakia. And if his supporters obey him as conscientiously as they have done for the past decade it will be certain that Yugoslavia will stand as a united people

Thousands of Croat soldiers and officers have already taken up positions and the defense lines of the country have been completely manned.

Once more the acceleration toward actual warfare seems to have increased and all sorts of evidence indicates that the actual outbreak is nearing.

Tonight there were two blackouts in Belgrade. Airplanes again roared overhead during most of the day and night. On and off during the evening the telephone lines with Italy and Germany were out and alarmist rumors spread rapidly.

The final stages of mobilization had their natural reflections here and all day long the capital was jammed with small marching contingents of troops heading toward the barracks and railroad depots. Eight hundred peasants in their drab brown leggings and black vests and hats strolled through the main streets this afternoon singing their songs of sunshine and girls while the crowds stood aside and stared.

#### *Shops Start to Close*

A little later they issued from their barracks bearing the heavy rectangular wooden boxes containing their military equipment. Shops began to close down one by one, displaying signs "Closed for Military Service."

It is clear that the directors of Yugoslavia think that Germany is closing in rapidly on the country and that only the United States will save it from a hail of shells and bombs. An official spokesman told the writer this afternoon that the Premier, Count Paul Teleki of Hungary, had committed suicide rather than agree to Nazi demands for free passage of troops through Hungary in addition to the granting of German bases in that country.

According to this source, who is a high official in the government, not only were the Hungarians ordered by Germany to facilitate free entry of troops, which would not make non-stop passages but would remain in the country, but the Reich also requested that military bases be afforded.

Admiral Nicholas Horthy, the Hungarian Regent, and Count Teleki had been resisting this request for months. It is said that Count Teleki pointed out that a bare five weeks ago Hungary had ratified a treaty of eternal friendship with Yugoslavia. The Germans are believed to have insisted. Count Teleki is said to have committed a form of haru kari to safeguard his honor.

#### *Nazi Units Pour Through*

The Wehrmacht is understood to be pouring into the country, not en route to Rumania, but to the Yugoslav frontier. One motorized division, occupying more than thirty-five miles of road as it moved northward, was reliably reported to have taken up positions along the Southern Hungarian frontier in the neighborhood of the Tisza River.

Heavy concentrations of Nazi airplanes are reported from Austria and it is said that a large number of aircraft flew south from Wiener Neustadt yesterday. From reliable Bucharest sources it is stated that Germany has now transported more than 500,000 men—a far higher figure than had been previously suspected—into Bulgaria and that the gap in the Rumanian "military mission" was rapidly being filled from the west.

#### **CITIES DECLARED TO BE OPEN**

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia, Friday, April 4 (AP)—The Yugoslav Government early today designated Belgrade, Zagreb and Ljubljana as open cities in the event of war, which departing German diplomats freely predicted would begin, barring the most unexpected developments, with air attacks in the next few days.

Although thus hoping to escape a rain of Nazi bombs, Belgrade just before midnight blacked out for the first time in a half-hour emergency air-raid drill.

As forty-two members of the German legation left for Berlin in an ordinary day coach, one of them disclosed that their last official act was to buy sandbags to protect German buildings from the Nazi bombs "which probably soon will be dropping."

Belgrade, the national capital of more than 270,000 population, is scarcely fifty miles from the Rumanian frontier, where German troops and planes are massed.

Zagreb, a city of 185,000 and capital of old Croatia, is about the same distance from the German concentrations on the Hungarian border. Ljubljana, chief city of old Slovenia, is barely twenty miles from the Italian frontier.

The German diplomats said they had no official word of the "undefended cities" declaration.

For the practice blackout, master switches extinguished every electric light in Belgrade, and even cut off telephone service. Traffic was paralyzed. The radio warned of what to do in the event of a real air alarm.

#### *Cellars Turned Into Shelters*

Authorities in Zagreb, near the Hungarian frontier, ordered householders to make shelters of their cellars quickly and issued other invasion instructions.

Communities in the vital Vardar River valley, which a German southward thrust toward Greece would follow, began all-night blackouts.

The army began requisitioning big resort hotels in the mountain for use as hospitals.

The German Diplomatic Corps, except for two attachés, quit the country on personal orders from Joachim von Ribbentrop, the Nazi Foreign Minister. Italian diplomats were preparing to leave.

The German radio hurled new charges of terrorism against Yugoslavia, and this country in turn dropped its polite tones to slap back boldly at the Nazi campaign of invective. Some Germans here professed the belief that armed conflict might be only a few hours distant.

Diplomatic reports from German-occupied countries told of massings of Nazi troops which indicated the German general staff is planning four definite thrusts if war comes.

1. A sweep down from Hungary and old Austria through the comparatively flat Banat district of northeast Yugoslavia toward Belgrade with fast motorized equipment.

2. A drive west from Rumania in an attempt to take Belgrade within two days.

3. A heavy force sent northwest from Bulgaria to attempt the capture of the vital rail junction of Nish.

4. An attack from southern Bulgaria through the mountain passes westward to try to seize Skoplje and get to the Albanian frontier to keep the Yugoslavs from driving the Italians into the Adriatic in an Axis Dunquerque.

#### **TWO BALKAN ENVOYS SEE ROOSEVELT**

**President Takes Direct Hand in Crisis—Morgenthau Hopes to Free Yugoslav Credits—\$50,000,000 Is Involved—Hungarian Minister Presents Credentials and Has a Long Talk at White House.**

WASHINGTON, April 3—President Roosevelt took a direct hand in diplomatic activities in connection with the Balkan situation today. He conferred at the White

House with the Yugoslav Minister, Constantin Fotitch, and the new Hungarian envoy, George de Ghika

Just before the President received M. Fotitch, Secretary of the Treasury Henry Morgenthau, Jr., expressed the hope in his press conference that he would be able to release more than \$50,000,000 Yugoslav credits in the United States which were frozen when the since-deposed Yugoslav Government joined the Axis last month

The Secretary of the Treasury recalled that he had seen the word "defrosted" applied to the proposed action and said that he hoped to employ that word in an announcement

Final action upon this matter, which would release funds for the purchase by Yugoslavia of war supplies in this country, presumably was discussed by the President and the Yugoslav envoy today

#### *"Complete Liberation"*

Mr. Morgenthau indicated that the State Department must approve the liberation of Yugoslav monies largely ear-marked gold, here, and despite the fact that the new government has opposed Germany and the Axis, Yugoslav adherence to the Axis has not yet been formally repudiated as far as is publicly known here.

The release of the funds would be a "complete liberation" if it takes place, Mr. Morgenthau emphasized, and not the mere issuance of a general license authorizing withdrawal of funds which would technically remain frozen

Although he talked to the President for forty-five minutes, M. Fotitch confined himself to saying, on leaving the White House, that he had thanked the Executive for the message he dispatched to King Peter II shortly after the coup d'etat which upset German plans and placed the boy monarch on the Balkan throne

"I delivered a reply of thanks and appreciation for the President's message," the Minister said

In presenting his credentials to the President, the Hungarian Minister, for his part, said

"I desire to say that I bring a message of good-will from my countrymen as well as to the assurance of the Hungarian Government of its sincere desire to promote mutual understanding"

#### *Told of Teleki's Death*

Mr. Roosevelt replied

"You may be assured of my desire and that of the other officials of the Government of the United States of America to grant you assistance and cooperation at all times with a view to strengthening the ties which have so long existed between our two nations."

Mr. de Ghika told reporters that he had informed the President of the death of Count Paul Teleki, the Hungarian Premier. He gave the opinion the Premier had died of natural causes. The President expressed regret over the death, the Minister said. The State Department has as yet received no report as to the causes of the Count's death

"I don't think there will be a change in Hungarian policy as long as Regent Horthy is there," Mr. de Ghika added. "He possesses a peculiarly Hungarian viewpoint and, thank God, he is in good health."

From the Minister's words it seemed apparent that his conversation with the President had gone far beyond the mere formal interchange of speeches in connection with presentation of credentials.

#### **ITALY TELLS STAFF TO QUIT BELGRADE**

**Only Skeleton Force Stays as Mussolini's Peace Effort In Yugoslavia Fails—War by Sunday Expected—Statement on Foreign Policy Awaited Today After Croat Leader Meets Cabinet.**

BY RAY BROCK

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia, April 3—The Italian Government tonight ordered the Italian legation staff to evacuate Belgrade immediately.

As Rome tacitly admitted total failure of Premier Mussolini's eleventh-hour peace offensive, the German legation staff left Belgrade for Germany in answer to their sudden recall this morning

The Italian Minister to this country, Giorgio Mamelli, remained with a skeleton staff of one secretary, chauffeur and valet. Signor Mamelli instructed the rest, including the Stefani news agency correspondent, to leave Belgrade not later than tomorrow night

The German charge d'affaires, Dr. Gert Feine, and the German military attaché, Colonel Rudolf Toussaint, were instructed to remain at the German Legation pending further orders. The German Legation staff, reduced from approximately 400 by last week's general evacuation order to about twenty-six aides and secretaries, including the D N R and Transocean agency correspondents, departed for Berlin tonight on the 10 50 train via Budapest.

#### *Relations in Name Only*

Diplomatic relations between Italy and Yugoslavia and Germany and Yugoslavia, reported last night by competent German, Italian and Yugoslav sources to be at an impasse, appeared at midnight tonight to exist in name only.

Signor Mamelli called at the Foreign Office in the middle of the morning for an hour's conference with Yugoslav Foreign Minister Momcilo Nincitch. He emerged looking grave. At the end of his twenty-five-minute interview late this afternoon, Signor Mamelli left the Foreign Office wearing an expression described by a witness as "haggard"

With the withdrawal of the Axis legation staffs, foreign observers and military experts in Belgrade again tonight shortened their estimate of the time remaining before Germany strikes at the Yugoslav frontier. One usually reliable source estimated forty-eight hours, sometime after midnight Saturday

The War Minister today appointed a press liaison officer and arrangements were made tonight for the transfer of all foreign correspondents, including nine Americans, by army automobiles to the new seat of the Yugoslav Government and General Staff Headquarters somewhere in Serbia, or maybe Bosnia

The news today that the Croat leader, Vladimir Matcchek, had announced his intention of taking his place in the Simovitch government and of his departure from Zagreb for Belgrade tonight acted like a tonic upon government circles here. Mr. Matcchek will arrive at Belgrade at 6.30 tomorrow morning with Ivan Sabovitch, the Croat Governor, and Dr. Ante Kosutitch, the Croat Peasant party secretary. Almost the entire Cabinet will meet them at the station and after breakfast Premier Dusan Simovitch will summon a Cabinet meeting.

#### *Statement Expected Today*

Yugoslavia's new Premier is expected to issue his long-deferred foreign policy statement tomorrow. This, orig-

inally scheduled for Monday or Tuesday of this week, was postponed by the hitch in the Serbo-Croat negotiations and by the unexpected fury of Germany radio and press attacks

Despite the violent and totally unfounded character of German allegations of Serbian terrorism over German minorities, informed sources close to the government told this correspondent tonight that General Simovitch's declaration will follow the general outlines disclosed last week. That is.

That Yugoslavia, seeking friendly relations with all her neighbors, seeks to maintain her neutrality and will respect all outstanding "public and open" agreements with all nations, that Yugoslavia is willing to discuss and negotiate all problems at any time, but that Yugoslavia is determined to resist all aggression with force of arms and will preserve her integrity at all costs

Yugoslavia's Minister to Berlin, Ivo Andritch, carried a message to the Berlin Foreign Office this week couched in virtually the same terms. While few diplomats and well-informed observers here believed that this message could prevent war, there were some authoritative sources in Belgrade tonight who believed that the note borne by M. Andritch, coupled with General Simovitch's public statement, might delay the outbreak of hostilities, at least beyond the week-end

#### *Matchek Intervention Hinted*

The pious tone of Mr Matchek's Zagreb declaration today and the Croat leader's well-known abhorrence of war, led some usually well-informed political observers here to believe that he may attempt some kind of last-minute intervention to preserve peace. These observers, at the same time, held out little hope that he would be successful

While Premier Simovitch's Army government accelerated every effort to get Yugoslavia upon a complete war footing in the shortest possible time, the internal situation—led by Mr Matchek's capitulation—was knitting rapidly. It is learned that King Peter had signed a decree after it was twice redrafted, providing for dissolution of the present Senate and establishment of popular elections to fill the Parliament. The Senators who now hold office were appointed by the former Regent, Prince Paul, former Premier Dragisha Cvetkovitch and city chieftains who owe their offices to the previous government

Mr. Matchek's foremost demand, the appointment of counselors to young King Peter, will be granted, according to information from government and court circles tonight. Its members will include Mr. Matchek, Father Fran Kulovetch of Slovenia and probably General Sloodan Jovanovitch, second Vice Premier and Serbian leader, and possibly Colonel Jivan Knezivitch, according to tonight's information. Colonel Knezivitch is a brother of the new Court Minister and was promoted to the General Staff yesterday.

## **A MOUNTAIN FORTRESS**

BY HANSON W BALDWIN

German troops massed on the frontiers of Yugoslavia yesterday as the Balkan crisis approached its climax.

The threat of force apparently found the Yugoslav nation virtually united and ready to resist invasion of its borders, its morale bolstered by a firm belief that defense would be materially aided by the rugged mountain fastnesses of the Yugoslav terrain.

This belief was fostered by the bloody history of past Balkan wars, by the epic Serbian retreat to Corfu in the World War and by the past success of the Slav Komitalis in waging guerrilla warfare against the enemy within their borders.

Yugoslavia is a land of very varied terrain that presents many problems to an invading force. It is the meeting place of great mountain ranges and great river systems. The Hungarian plain gradually merges in the north into the tumbled mountain masses that distinguish its southern area, on its northeastern borders the horse-shoe curve of the Transylvanian Alps—an extension of the Carpathian range—meets the high hills of the Balkan Mountains, its Italian frontier and Dalmatian coast is fringed by the Julian and Dinaric Alps, and to the southeast mountain ranges and the Struma River Valley lie between Yugoslavia's frontier and Bulgaria's Rhodope Mountains

#### *Ranges and River Merge*

These great ranges merge in many parts of Yugoslavia in tangled, wild and grandly beautiful peaks and hills, some of them 7,000 feet or more in height. These have little conformity or pattern but are broken and serrated here and there by river valleys, lakes and passes

The great river systems of the Balkans similarly merge or originate in the Yugoslav area, and the valleys thus formed are the distinguishing features of its military geography. In the north between the Hungarian and Rumanian frontiers and Belgrade, the Tisa, the Drava and the Sava all merge with the Danube, which then flows eastward through the terrific gorges of the Transylvanian Alps (the so-called Iron Gates) at Turnu-Severin to form the frontier between Rumania, Bulgaria and Yugoslavia. The Sava River rises in the Julian Alps on the Italian frontier near Ljubljana and flows southeastward through the generally flat and low areas of Croatia-Slavonia, to its juncture with the Danube at Belgrade, where a great bridge spans it

The area to the north of the Sava-Danube system is really an extension of the Hungarian plain and although the line of the Drava, which for a time forms part of the Yugoslav-Hungarian frontier, and of the Danube might be defended for a time and could offer some delay to an invader, the first major terrain obstacle to invasion from the north and east is the Sava-Danube line

#### *Disposition of Army*

According to recent reports, the Yugoslavs have recognized this, and have disposed two of their six armies (which correspond roughly in strength to army corps in other nations) behind the line of the Sava and the Danube, west and east of Belgrade. The Fourth Army on the left has its flank protected by the Julian and Dinaric Alps. The First on the right, behind Belgrade, has its flank protected by the Golubinsk Range (an extension of the Transylvanian Alps south of Turnu-Severin) and by the Morava River, which flows northward into the Danube east of Belgrade. The two armies are thus in a position to guard natural routes of invasion from Hungary and Rumania via the four river valleys of the north—the Tisa, the Danube, the Drava and the Sava

German divisions are already reported concentrated on the Hungarian-Rumanian frontier, with strong forces at Hungarian Szeged and from Rumanian Timisoara, southward to the Iron Gates, ready for a pincer drive from the north and from the east toward Belgrade, which is only fifty miles air line from the Rumanian frontier. Com-

bined with another movement possibility from Hungarian Pécs as a base toward Zagreb, a German invasion might readily sweep through most of this fertile land of the Hungarian basin, an area that is the richest and most productive part of Yugoslavia.

Indeed, the Germans might well fulfill the boast expressed by some of them—that their armies would be in Belgrade within forty-eight hours, but there, their troubles would only begin.

For south of the great river systems of the north, the provinces of Serbia and Bosnia quickly change from fertile river valleys to ragged mountain ranges, offering splendid and numerous natural lines of defense.

#### *Guardian of the Valley*

Along the Bulgarian frontier, where German troops, apparently intent on an invasion of Greece, are now reported to have faced west, the Golubinsk and Stara mountains march like sentinels. At Nish, where the head water of the Timok River (which, with a railway paralleling it, offers a route of approach from extreme southwestern Rumania into Yugoslavia) approaches a branch of the Morava, the Yugoslav Fifth Army is believed to have its headquarters. This army guards the Timok Valley and the important railroad and valley route, via the Nishiva River and the Dragoman Pass to Sofia.

Further south at Skoplje in a central position in the broad Vardar Valley, traditional route of conquest, guarding the mountain approaches from Bulgarian Kustendil and the Struma River Valley, the Yugoslav Third Army is thought to be concentrated. The Sixth Army is thought to be along the Albanian frontier, ready perhaps to pour over the mountain passes and down the Drin and Shkumbi River Valleys toward Italian Durazzo and Scutari, in an attempt, with Greek and British aid, to push the Italians into the Adriatic. The Second Yugoslav Army may be concentrated in reserve around Sarajevo, city of fatal World War memories.

Thus, despite some field fortifications along the northern and northeastern frontiers and expected delaying action, if Yugoslavia is invaded early progress of the Germans may be rapid. But as the Yugoslav armies withdraw into the heart of the country the great mountain massifs and irregular hill masses, together with poor communication and transportation facilities, should make the task of the invaders increasingly difficult.

#### **SOVIET RECOGNITION FOR SIMOVITCH SEEN**

##### **High Officials Receive Yugoslav Minister, Who Also Holds a Cabinet Portfolio.**

MOSCOW, April 3 (UP)—Russia was understood tonight to have officially recognized the new Simovitch regime as the legal government of Yugoslavia during a meeting at the Kremlin of Milan Gabrilovitch, the Yugoslav Minister and Andrey Y. Vishinsky, Soviet Vice Commissar of Foreign Affairs.

General Dusan Simovitch's army coup in Yugoslavia has "altered the Balkan situation" and initiated a new phase in the affairs of Southern Europe, the Red Army organ, Red Star, said today in the first public Russian comment on the Yugoslav crisis.

Diplomatic quarters reported that M. Babrilovitch yesterday called on M. Vishinsky and from him received Premier and Foreign Commissar Vyacheslav M. Molotov's acknowledgement of the official notification that 17-

year-old Peter II had assumed the Yugoslav throne with full royal powers.

By this move Russia gave de jure recognition to the new regime in Belgrade, inasmuch as M. Gabrilovitch is not only the new government's Minister to Moscow, but is a member of the Simovitch Cabinet as well.

M Gabrilovitch also is understood to have visited the German Ambassador in Moscow, Count Friedrich Werner von der Schulenburg, and explained to him the foreign policy of the new government in Belgrade.

He told the Nazi envoy, it was understood, that Premier Simovitch and his Cabinet were determined to do all within their power to preserve Yugoslavia's independence and neutrality.

#### **ITALIAN STUDENTS DEMAND DALMATIA**

##### **Anti-Yugoslav Demonstration Attempted for First Time—Press Remains Calm—Matsuoka Leaves Rome—4-Day Visit Fails to Result in Any New Accord—Minister Talks to U. S. Envoy.**

ROME, April 3—Official circles and the press continue today to maintain an attitude of reserve and developments were being awaited from the diplomatic activity concerning a solution of the Yugoslav crisis.

At the same time a demonstration against Yugoslavia was attempted by a few dozen students for the first time this morning. The youngsters, who had just cheered Yosuke Matsuoka the Japanese Foreign Minister, on his way to the station, marched to the legation shouting, "We want Dalmatia." Soldiers posted on near-by streets barred their way and the students, after some more shouting, dispersed.

There was considerable pessimism in Rome this evening, but that all hope has not yet been abandoned of avoiding a conflict was shown by the fact that the press has so far abstained from taking an attitude of direct hostility against Belgrade.

Whatever is being printed about Yugoslav "atrocities" is under a Berlin date line which, it is pointed out, proves that Italy, though supporting Germany—as an ally must—is maintaining a passive attitude.

This, it is said, means that Rome believes that all bridges have not yet been burned, but, of course, nothing will be allowed to leak out until a concrete result has been obtained one way or the other. Political circles said today that reports of mediation were "unfounded." Nothing of the sort, they asserted, is being undertaken by Italy, which, as Germany's partner, could not play such a game.

The fact remains, however, that Giorgio Mamelli, the Italian Minister in Belgrade, has had several contacts with the Yugoslav Government and is keeping in constant telephone touch with the Foreign Office, it was said.

#### *Gayda Editorial Calm*

Virginio Gayda, who in times of crisis invariably expresses the official attitude, writes today a singularly meek and calm editorial on Yugoslavia.

"The Italian nation," he said, "follows with unaltered calm the new and somewhat mysterious events in Yugoslavia. \* \* \* She will continue to do so until everything is cleared up. The moment has not yet come for a thorough examination of the phase ushered in by the Yugoslav Putsch."

The Giornale d'Italia correspondent from Belgrade writes a very pessimistic dispatch, however.



The new men who have risen to power "belong to old groups known for their Masonic liberal views," he writes. "The atmosphere is so tense that public opinion has no longer a clear vision of the facts. In the face of a just German resentment and the feeling of imminent punishment a large number of the people understand now that they have let themselves be led by a military group which is being influenced by criminal English-Jewish-Masonic pressure."

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## **NAZIS MASS ON ALL YUGOSLAV BORDERS AS BELGRADE REGIME PLAYS FOR TIME; U. S. PLANS AID; WILL DROP RED SEA BAN**

**Reich Army Moves—Hungarian Roads Said to Be  
Choked With Troops Rolling Southward—4 Divisions  
Enter Italy—Yugoslav Military Takes Over Railroads  
—Peter Mobilizes Full Armed Might.**

BY C. L. SULZBERGER

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia, April 4—A powerful German army rumbled through neighboring countries today moving into position along all of Yugoslavia's frontiers as peace hopes dimmed and the imminence of war appeared to be increasing.

Four divisions of Tyrolean mountain troops have passed into Italy and it is believed they are being rushed to Albania in an effort to help stave off the impending invasion of that Italian colony should the Nazi Balkan drive begin.

All day long Hungarian roads and railroads were choked with troops and equipment moving southward to take up positions in forts near Szeged, Mohacs and Nagy Kanizsa.

Two more German divisions are known to have passed through Budapest in a steady stream of arms, men and armored cars, rattling into the Tisza Valley toward the Yugoslav Banat.

[In a broadcast recorded by the National Broadcasting Company, the Budapest radio announced that the border between Hungary and Yugoslavia had been closed by the Belgrade Government.]

In Rumania masses of troops moved westward in the direction of Timisoara and in Bulgaria what appeared to be the final preparations for a thrust against the Vardar Valley position of the Yugoslavs were made.

### *Nazis Continue Preparations*

During the past twenty-four hours German airplanes have been sweeping through the skies of all the Nazi-occupied lands, occasionally infringing on Yugoslav territorial limits. The last two nights have been marked by intermittent blackouts in Belgrade.

In the entire southeastern region from the Carpathian Range, where the Nazi troops are crossing Slovakia and pouring into Ruthenia, to the Rhodope Mountains, where they are climbing the heights facing Southern Yugoslavia, German military might seems to be preparing for a huge attack.

Clamoring crowds of refugees continue to pile out of the country. Belgrade's railroad station was jammed with travelers who gathered to take any available train.

There was no disorder or panic and a surprising calm prevailed, but the lack of knowledge of arrangements led to some confusion. All railroad traffic is being stopped and taken over by the military. At a late hour tonight it

was not known whether the 3 P. M. train for Subotica was the last through passage to the frontier as earlier reported or not.

It was thought a special train had been formed bound for Guevgueli, with refugees heading for Greece, including all Greeks here but the legation staff. However, the time passed and no train left.

It is understood the Italians have evacuated the border town of Fiume and the Adriatic coastal town of Zara, given to them after the last war.

The Italian colony of Montenegro, living in the vicinity of Getinje, was ordered by its government to leave, but refused. It was said the men offered their services to the Yugoslav military authorities.

Mobilization and military movements continue here, and, as this dispatch is being written, a battalion of infantrymen, accompanied by pack horses, is tramping under my window, singing a deep-throated chant.

"Our hearts are beating for our country while we march!

"Our flag is waving for our country while we march!"

### *Italians Move to Legation*

Steel-helmeted soldiers have been ambling through the capital all day, leading livestock out of the Banat and Vojvodina.

Belgrade, Zagreb and Ljubljana—capitals of Serbia, Croatia and Slovenia—were officially declared open towns by a communique published this morning, but precautions are being taken for any violation of this international understanding.

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## **YUGOSLAV CABINET AGREES ON POLICY**

**Simovitch to Outline Position of Regime Today—War  
Now Seen as Inevitable.**

BY RAY BROCK

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia, Saturday, April 5—Yugoslavia played for time this morning against the opening of the German Blitzkrieg.

General Dusan Simovitch, the Premier, is expected to issue the new Yugoslav Government's foreign policy statement at 11.30 A. M.

The long-awaited statement, which received final approval at last night's full Cabinet meeting, is aimed at soothing the Wilhelmstrasse in so far as possible and staying Germany's hand until defense preparations are more nearly completed.

Inspired rumors set adrift late last night, all of them hinting at the dispatch of some special Yugoslav envoy to Berlin or Rome for last-minute conversations, exploded one by one in the early hours.

The apparent inevitability and imminence of war tinged even the utterances of the few Axis diplomats who remain here.

One diplomat, who clung to hopes that Italian intervention might succeed despite everything, admitted that after the final visit of the Italian Minister to the Foreign Office Thursday the situation had gone too far for any one to halt it.

The Germans, too, have ceased their arguments that Yugoslavia will, in the last hour, succumb to Germany's insistence upon the concessions granted at Vienna by the Cvetkovitch government.

Vice Premier Vladimir Matchek is reported to have told a close personal friend that "we are not trying to avoid war at any cost, but we will not fight unless attacked."

The peacemaker's mantel, draped over the shoulders of M. Matchek, already has slipped a trifle. Despite persistent rumors that he had decided to go to the frontier and meet some high German personality, friends of the Croat leader told this correspondent he had no such intentions, and that, furthermore, it appeared highly dubious that any German personality would be dispatched by Berlin at this time for any such meeting.

A companion rumor said that the Trade Minister, Ivan Andres, a frequent voyager to Germany during the Cvetkovitch régime, might make the journey. Here, likewise, there was no confirmation.

General Simovitch's statement is expected to take the line already described—Yugoslavia's readiness to recognize all "public and open" agreements undertaken by the previous government, Yugoslavia's eagerness to negotiate all problems peacefully at the council table, and readiness to fight here and now if subjected to unprovoked aggression.

#### *Nazis Continue Attacks*

While the German press and radio continues their attacks upon Yugoslavia and the alleged terrorism of Serbian guerilla organizations, the Axis-dominated countries in Southeastern Europe chimed in on the chorus.

One American businessman who telephoned his Budapest office was greeted with the exclamation.

"Good Heavens, are you still alive? It must be horrible there."

The American explained that he was in the best of health and the weather was lovely and Springlike, and as for the depredations described by the German radio and press—it was news to him.

The Yugoslav official news agency and the press received intimations yesterday to ignore the continued German attacks. Last night's press was bare of the indignant denials and ridicule leveled by the Belgrade Pravda and Politika at the German D N B and Italian Stefani dispatches reporting terrorism in the Vojvodina.

The Yugoslav Government and the Belgrade diplomatic corps—with the exception of the Axis envoys—spent one of their busiest days yesterday and the beginning of a critical week-end. Virtually all of the Cabinet Ministers rose before sun-up to meet M. Matchek at the railroad station.

Ministerial conferences began almost immediately after breakfast and by mid-afternoon, according to reliable Croat sources, all preliminary details were arranged for the public reuniting of the Serbian-Croat party leaders. M. Matchek was sworn in as Vice Premier and Sava Kosanovitch took his oath as Supply Minister a few minutes afterward.

Both men joined the conference and by late afternoon General Simovitch was able to summon the Cabinet in session to approve the program of the new Serbo-Croat agreement and the foreign policy statement.

A new Royal Council selected for young King Peter II will be named by General Simovitch, probably today. It is understood it will consist of General Simovitch, M. Matchek, Father Fran Kulovetch of Slovenia, the Serbian Patriarch and one Serbian general. M. Matchek, if he accepts the Royal Council post, may resign his Vice Premiership.

As the crisis reached what appeared to be a climax Belgrade diplomats called at the Presidency and Foreign

Office and conferred with each other, seeking some collective answer to the paramount question "How soon?"

Information from usually well-informed diplomatic sources last night pointed only to the imminence of war with guesses ranging from an attack sometime after midnight Saturday to April 15. The majority of the guessing was on the short side of the latter estimate.

#### **REICH EMPHASIZES YUGOSLAV DANGER**

**Press Continues to Publish Stories of Atrocities as Berlin Suspicions Grow—German Reported Killed—Mayor of Town Said to Have Been Murdered by Serbs—Belgrade Warned.**

BERLIN, April 4—The seriousness and urgency of the Yugoslav crisis were emphasized here today.

Official quarters profess to see no relaxation in the tension between Berlin and Belgrade. The acceptance of a Cabinet post by Vladimir Matchek, Croat leader, is adjudged an internal Yugoslav matter and its effect on the foreign policy of the new regime, it was said, must be awaited.

The suspicion that has prevailed in German quarters respecting the sincerity, not to say the good will, of the new Belgrade Government as to its foreign obligations has become, if anything, more pronounced. The activities of Yugoslav agents abroad continue to evoke misgivings as to the desires of the Simovitch Government to placate Germany.

The number of reports of persecutions of Germans in Yugoslavia and incidents involving Germans there is increasing in the press here. Among other things, the murder of the German Mayor of Pardany in the "German" Banat by Serbs, is reported from Rumania.

#### *Belgrade Is Warned*

The Diplomatisch-Politische Korrespondenz tonight advises Belgrade to be a bit more careful. The things about which silence is being maintained today, the Foreign Office organ adds, will one day come to light. This paper expresses the opinion, furthermore, that anti-German demonstrations in Yugoslavia far exceed current reports.

Today's Wiener Mittag, alone of the German newspapers, comments on the situation as it now exists between Berlin and Belgrade in an article entitled "The Serbian Dagger." It can already be said, this comment declares, that fires will not be confined to the roofs of German villages in Yugoslavia. Great Britain has been seeking a place from which to cause an extension of the war on the Continent, the article continues, and the Serbian Government appears to have offered its services.

With the demonstrations against racial Germans, the Vienna newspaper adds, Serbian chauvinism has initiated a quarrel it will bitterly regret. Whoever grasps the hand of friendship offered by the Axis powers as the Yugoslavs did in Belgrade, only then to contaminate it, will have to wait for an answer, this comment concludes.

#### **SIDESHOW THEORY ABANDONED**

BERLIN, April 4 (UP)—German authorized quarters and the press, alleging that Serbians in Yugoslavia have resorted to murder in outrages against Germans, intimated tonight that Germany no longer regards the Balkans and Africa as a mere sideshow on the periphery of the war.



Yugoslav Minister Ivo Andritch remains in Berlin but there is no indication that the German Minister to Belgrade, Viktor von Heeren, who has been called here for consultation intended to return to Yugoslavia in the near future.

Authorized Nazi quarters said that Germany must "reject with indignation" Yugoslavia's denials of the persecution of German nationals.

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## ROME EXPECTS GERMAN DRIVE

ROME, April 4 (AP)—A German drive against Greece or Yugoslavia or both appeared to be rapidly approaching tonight. Italian newspapers reported the situation was growing worse.

The Italian press listed two factors that might serve as excuses for action—the presence of British troops on the Greek frontier with Yugoslavia and urgings by Washington and London that Yugoslavia go to war.

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## EUROPE

### The Croats Play a Star Role in the Balkan Drama.

BY ANNE O'HARE MCCORMICK

Elemental forces are at play in the Balkan drama. To those who know the people and the terrain, the unfolding action has the feel of Greek tragedy, or of one of those mythological fantasies where nature plays so personal a role that it is impossible to dissociate human life from its turbulent setting.

The Balkan peasant still lives in a close partnership with nature. For centuries his mountains, his walled valleys and his wild and treacherous rivers have been his allies against powerful invaders. He relies on these fortifications and his own wit and strength to wear down any enemy. He is far less terrified by mechanized armies than the French were or than his own worried governments are. Talk to the Bulgars or the Serbs or the Transylvanians as they rush from their villages to join the troops, and you see that for them modern war is just primitive war—an affair of ambushes, guerrilla bands, mountain pass battles, physical endurance.

This is how the Greeks fought. And the Serbs are fiercer fighters than the Greeks. It is easy to believe the reports that they are chafing to get at the Germans. In the last war they held the enemy forces for two years in the Vardar Valley, and they have not the slightest doubt that they can do so again. They count on themselves and the help of nature even more than they count on the British.

Reports from Budapest disclose that the dead Premier of Hungary, Count Teleki, encouraged the sale of the book he officially banned, "Why Germany Cannot Win the War." Remarkable as it is that this story can be told, it is more remarkable that the peoples of South-eastern Europe in general actually believe that the Germans cannot win. Nothing astonished this reporter in the Balkans more than the fact that Germany's back-door

neighbors were less impressed by the Nazi war machine than people in the West. This is partly because they think in more elemental terms, and do not fear war so much, but mostly because they have maintained the faith of primitive folk in the defenses of nature and the prowess of man.

Now in war nature is in league with the Serbs, but it works against the Croats. This is one reason why the Croat decision to cooperate is as significant as the coup d'état itself. The Croats took no part in the uprising. Prince Paul was the friend of their leader, Dr. Vladimir Matchek, and it was largely due to the Regent's efforts that the Croats, after twelve years of sullen abstention, were induced to participate in the government. Matchek openly favored the Vienna pact and was Vice Premier and a powerful figure in the Cabinet overthrown by General Simovitch.

Two years ago, sitting beside a rusty wood stove in a bare little room in Zagreb, where peasants in sheepskin coats slunk in and out with the air of conspirators, Dr. Matchek told the writer that Yugoslavia was in a state of civil war. He said that Croatia might join Germany if it failed to obtain its rights at home. He spoke mildly, choosing his words carefully, a tough and keen-eyed old man who opposed violence, but had built up a great movement of passive resistance that influenced Serbian as well as as Croatian peasants.

That was before the war, before Yugoslavia was threatened; his threat then was a matter of tactics, and it worked. By last year Matchek had gained a large measure of autonomy for the Croats.

At the price of further gains for his province he has now gone farther. In the final showdown he takes his stand with the Serbs. This means that the Croats brave greater risks than the Serbs for the sake of a united front. It means that Hitler's most successful policy, of disintegrating a country before he attacks, has at last failed to work. The most dissatisfied minority in Europe, divided from the majority by religion, culture, long years of friction, chooses to face invasion with the Serbs rather than accept German "protection."

All this is true even if the object of Matchek's cooperation is to save the peace, as he declares. If this stand is tactics too, he still risks war in which the Croats will take the rap first. We do not know what proposals the Yugoslav envoy took to Berlin, or what goes on behind the scenes in this pause before action, but the signs indicate that the Serbs, now as in 1914, are ready to make all the concessions they can without surrendering their independence, and that the Germans, unprepared as they were for this resistance, are determined to fight.

The most convincing proof that Hitler means to strike is not the faked stories of Serb "atrocities," or the massed troops on the frontiers. These might be bluff, a final turn of the screw. But the Hungarian Premier by his suicide told his own country and the world of Hitler's intentions. To those who knew Count Teleki, this act of hara-kiri can only signify that Hungary has been asked to break her pledge to Yugoslavia. His was a desperate gesture which brings into cruel focus the vast human tragedy involved in the terrible choices Hitler forces upon men and nations. Against the Balkan mountains, where elemental things are as real as persons are in the imagination of the people, you can see the shape of the evil genius that stalks the world.

## YUGOSLAVS AWAITING GERMAN ATTACK, CLOSE BORDERS, TO EVACUATE CAPITAL; SIGN FRIENDSHIP TREATY WITH SOVIET

**Pact for 5 Years—Moscow Radio Says That Accord Was Signed In Capital Yesterday—Rigid Neutrality Agreed—British Commentator Finds "Most Encouraging News" in Check to Germany.**

BY THE UNITED PRESS

LONDON, Sunday, April 6—Russia and Yugoslavia have signed a friendship and non-aggression pact, effective immediately, Moscow radio, heard in London, reported early today.

The treaty binds Russia and Yugoslavia for five years to pursue a policy of neutrality and "strictest friendship" in the event one of them is attacked, Moscow radio said.

A 5 A M Radio Moscow news broadcast said the treaty was signed in the Soviet capital yesterday "after negotiations which have been taking place in Moscow during the past few days."

The treaty stipulates that Russia and Yugoslavia agree to respect each other's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity, Radio Moscow reported.

### *Text of Announcement*

The text of the Radio Moscow announcement, as heard in London:

The Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of Soviet Russia and His Majesty, King Peter, moved by the friendship existing between the two nations, and to satisfy their mutual interest to preserve peace, have decided to conclude a treaty of friendship and non-aggression.

They appointed for the purpose of concluding such their representatives, V. M. Molotoff, representative of the Supreme Soviet of Soviet Russia; M. Gavrilo-vitch, V. Silitch and Colonel Savich as representatives of His Majesty, King Peter.

They have agreed to the following:

1. Both sides agreed to refrain from any aggression and to respect each other's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity.

2. In case one of them should become a victim of aggression by a third country, the other will keep a policy of friendship toward the first.

3. The treaty is signed for a period of five years and if not denounced by one of the signatories one year before the end of the treaty, it automatically is prolonged for another five years.

4. The treaty comes into force at the moment of signing and must be ratified in the shortest possible time. The exchange of documents of ratification will take place at Belgrade.

5. The treaty is in two originals in the Russian and Serb-Croatian languages, both of which have the power of the original.

*Moscow, April 5.*

*On Behalf of the Supreme Soviet of Soviet Russia:*

V. M. MOLOTOFF.

*On Behalf of His Majesty, King Peter:*

M. GAVRILOVITCH.

V. SILICH.

Colonel SAVICH.

The British radio in a broadcast heard here last night quoted the Moscow radio as saying that Yugoslavia and

the Soviet Union had signed a new treaty. The broadcast was recorded here by the Columbia Broadcasting System.

The British Broadcasting Company said the announcement was made in a special radio bulletin but no details of the content of the pact were given.

It was signed, B. B. C. said, by Vyacheslav M. Molotoff, Soviet Premier and Foreign Commissar, and Milan Gavrilo-vitch for Yugoslavia.

M. Gavrilo-vitch, who formerly was Yugoslav Ambassador to Moscow, recently had been reported either in or on his way to the Soviet capital.

Government circles in Belgrade said last Tuesday that the government of Premier Dusan Simovitch was seriously considering joining Russia and Turkey in a neutrality declaration.

Such a declaration was said to have been proposed by the Soviet Union but ignored by Regent Prince Paul who was ousted by the Simovitch regime after Yugoslavia signed the Axis Three-Power Pact.

### *Resigned Moscow Post*

M. Gavrilo-vitch, a former Yugoslav Cabinet member, resigned his Moscow post because he opposed the pact with Germany. He decided, however, to remain at the service of the Simovitch government when it seized power.

Russia and Turkey issued identical statements on March 25 pledging each other "full and comprehensive neutrality" in the event that either was obliged to fight to defend her territory.

The Columbia Broadcasting System's short wave listening station heard J. B. McGeachy, a commentator on the British radio, say the following about the Russo-Yugoslav treaty.

"The news is less than an hour old in London, and there's been no time for any estimate of its importance. All that one can say at the moment is that it looks like most encouraging news, and a fresh sign of Russia's interest in checking German domination in the Balkans."

### **BELGRADE IS READY**

**Government Is Prepared to Move Southward if Nazis Strike—U. S. Minister to Remain—Alarmist Rumors Multiply, but Are Laid to Berlin Tactics—Cabinet Sits Late.**

BY RAY BROCK

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia, Sunday, April 6 — The Yugoslav Government was in emergency session early today while, with Yugoslav-Axis diplomatic relations at a standstill and peace hopes apparently abandoned, Premier Dusan Simovitch fought for time against the German invasion, which appears to some responsible sources here "a matter of hours."

General Simovitch summoned the Cabinet, which adjourned its last meeting at 2.35 A. M. yesterday, into session at 7.15 P. M. It was still in session at midnight.

The dean of the Belgrade diplomatic corps, Mgr. Ettore Felici, the Papal Nuncio, called the Ministers of all the legations together late yesterday to ask if they were prepared to evacuate the capital. All Belgrade legations, with the exception of the German and Italian skeleton staffs, and possibly the Bulgarian, will send representatives with the departing government when the attack comes.

### *Lane to Stay in Belgrade*

Arthur Bliss Lane, United States Minister, will remain in Belgrade, according to authoritative sources. Robert B. MacAtee, the United States Consul, will accompany the government to its new seat in Central Serbia or Bosnia. Eight American correspondents will travel with the Yugoslav Government and the General Staff in a motor caravan.

While the diplomats who will move with the government packed their bags and prepared their automobiles tonight for departure at a moment's notice, more than one authoritative diplomatic source informed this correspondent that "all hope is now abandoned and war is coming."

"Maybe before daylight," they added. "Nobody knows. Nobody can read Hitler's mind."

The final transmission of the Belgrade radio last night ended with a coded message addressed to the Yugoslav Legation in Sofia. A neutral diplomat, who planned to remain a wake and near the telephone and radio all night, expressed belief that the coded message indicated complete interruption of telegraph and telephone communication with Bulgaria.

Toward the end of the Belgrade radio broadcast the announcer warned: "To the Yugoslav Legation at Sofia: Important! Stand by to take an urgent message at the end of this transmission." A few minutes later the warning was repeated. At the end of the transmission a new voice was heard reading a message, which began: "Cheteri, dva, cheteri, pet—four, two, four, five," and on through a series of coded numbers. The message was then repeated and the station signed off.

### *Capital Tests Blackout*

Belgrade again was plunged into darkness at 9.34 last night and at exactly midnight. By 12 o'clock the streets outside this correspondent's hotel were almost empty and only one taxi with blue lights passed during the twenty-two-minute blackout.

Across the street, in the dark gardens of the Kalemegdan Fortress, a soldier began to sing a plaintive South Bosnian song "Dusha Moja [My Soul]." The refrain was taken up by a woman's voice, then by several others. The song ended just before the lights came up again to reveal the head of an infantry column piling out of the Kalemegdan and down the long, winding street toward the railroad station.

A hurried taxi journey through central Belgrade and along diplomatic row disclosed the lights burning in the British Legation and press office, the Italian Legation and at the home of the Italian Minister.

A motor caravan of three cars was forming outside the British Legation toward midnight, bound for Greece with evacuees from the Budapest and Belgrade colonies. The hotels and kafanas, open after midnight since abolishment of the 12 o'clock curfew, were almost empty. But music still burst out through the open doors into the balmy Spring weather in the streets.

In the Srpski Kralj, journalistic headquarters, the telephone jangled incessantly with calls from those European capitals that still could be reached by phone and with local calls for the reporters stationed near the Presidency and Foreign Office.

"Anything from the Cabinet?"

"They're still in there."

"What does it look like?"

"You've got me."

"Will the General [Simovitch] come through with the foreign policy declaration tonight or after midnight?"

"Nobody knows."

### *Official Cars Held Ready*

In the blacked-out boulevard outside the Presidency, seventeen State limousines stood at the curb with chauffeurs lounging inside. The glowing tip of an occasional cigarette was visible through the windshield. Up at the second-floor windows chinks of light showed dimly through the shutters, revealing where the leaders of the Yugoslav Government were in session.

The German radios from Stuttgart and Donau continued tonight to pour out threats against Yugoslavia, calling on Croatia to revolt and "throw off the Serbian yoke." Once more there was the statement from Germany to Croatia that "We shall liberate you soon."

Berlin reports relayed through neighboring capitals carried a Wilhelmstrasse statement that Yugoslav-German relations were "practically non-existent" and that "the situation could be no worse."

Berlin operators refused to take Belgrade's calls or to connect Berlin calls for Belgrade. Efforts to reach Sofia by telephone after the Belgrade radio broadcast failed when the Belgrade operator reported that the line was out of order.

This correspondent saw some of the guerrilla Komitajis in the streets of Belgrade yesterday afternoon and last night for the first time since General Simovitch's army coup ten days ago. Two women members of the Cetnik irregulars' organization appeared last evening. One of them, young, pretty and unusually smart in gabardine skirt and tunic bearing the arm band, Karageorge emblem and cap emblazoned with the Komitaji skull and crossbones insignia, dined at the next table in the hotel.

### *Guerrillas Also Are Ready*

The other, Ljubitchitch Andrijana, from Central Serbia, turned up in an out-of-the-way kafana. Mrs. Andrijana, 50 years old, wore her uniform and Cetnik cap and a pair of knives in her belt. She wore a dozen medals, including the Karegeorge star, third degree, which she won for valor in the World War.

"I came up to Belgrade," she said, "because Belgrade apparently is to be the front line in this war. The government has declared it an open city and if 'they' respect it, then we can fall back to better positions. If they do not, then we shall be here to deal with them."

Mrs. Andrijana was wounded nine times by machine-gun and rifle fire in the Balkan and World Wars. The Komitajis, including their women members, have organized special anti-parachute squads to patrol the capital's outskirts and vital communication centers of the provinces.

The telephone rang toward midnight and one of this correspondent's closest diplomatic sources inquired the news. Told there was nothing late and positive, he passed on word that his latest information pointed to hostilities "before morning."

"My reports are from Budapest, Bucharest and indirectly Berlin," he said. "I have not been able to reach Sofia. They are not connecting even diplomatic calls. We are simply awaiting whatever is to happen and we are convinced that it will happen soon."

## NAZI UNITS CROWD YUGOSLAV BORDERS

**Some Are Reported in Albania as Massing in Hungary and Rumania Goes On—All Axis Frontiers Shut—Belgrade Recalls Shipping—A German Plane Is Shot Down Over Maribor.**

BY C L SULZBERGER

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia, April 5—The German military encirclement of Yugoslavia was nearing completion tonight as eight new divisions reportedly jammed the Hungarian roads, a powerful armored unit concentrated at Bela Crkva on the Rumanian frontier one and a half hours' drive from Belgrade and the first Nazi troops entered Albania.

War appeared so imminent to some quarters that no one would be entirely surprised if it broke out before morning. Alarmist reports circulating in Zagreb said that the attack seemed only a matter of hours away. British information sources reported from Bucharest and Budapest that the invasion of Southeastern Yugoslavia by the German Army of the Struma was ready to begin at any moment.

An informed Bucharest source told the writer in a telephone conversation last night that Rumanian circles were convinced the invasion would come this week-end. Diplomatic negotiations are over and the German Army is ready to embark on a new venture, these circles feel.

### *Rumors From Nazi Sources*

It is only worth noting that most of the more pessimistic predictions emanate from German-controlled countries, such as Hungary, Rumania and Bulgaria, or from the Croat capital of Zagreb, which is the center of the small but active German-inspired Fascist movement. Whether this is, in other words, a tactic in the Nazi war of nerves or accurate prophecy will be proved by sunrise tomorrow or Monday.

Naturally, it would be foolish to accept as truth the reports received from even the best-informed news collecting services of any government, since no one could possibly be in a position to read Reichsfuehrer Hitler's mind. But it is interesting to observe that all these rumors, whether by circumstance or by deliberate propaganda conception, are virtually identical.

The facts of the situation are clear. Once more the normal peasant life of Hungary has been thrown into turmoil by the huge disruption caused by the passage of German Armies, and eight separate divisions were said to have been sighted. The motorized units on three points of the Hungarian southern frontier—Mohacs, Szeged and Nagy Kanizsa—were increased, as were the concentrations in the Rumanian Banat.

An absolutely reliable source said German soldiers were known to have arrived in Albania—the debarkation point coming as somewhat of a surprise and indicating the probability that airplane transport was employed. Four Tyrolean mountain divisions have entered Italy in the last four days.

Yugoslavia is obviously taking all the necessary precautions. The proclamation calling for a state of "general preparation," dated April 1 and signed by King Peter, was published in today's press, but its effects have already been reported.

## *All Frontiers Closed*

The government ordered the closing of all frontiers this morning. Outerbridge Horses, secretary of the United States Legation in Budapest, who is coming here by train for emergency work, was stopped at the Hungarian frontier and the legation here is trying to facilitate his transport now by automobile.

All Danube traffic on the Yugoslav stretch of the river has now been halted. A German Messerschmitt plane was shot down yesterday while cruising over Maribor and it crashed at Ptuj.

Circulation through the country save with special military permit has been halted. All cars are being stopped by the police and are being requisitioned unless they have special passes. A new War Press Bureau has been established. At the same time Yugoslav technical conversations with the United States Legation on the subject of arms purchases in the event of war are understood to be progressing satisfactorily.

A new postoffice ruling forbade the mailing of packages except those bound for soldiers. Radio Belgrade keeps up a constant program of air-raid precautions instructions and the city was against intermittently blacked out during the night. The use of candles is prohibited and city power switches are turned off, suspending newspaper work during these periods.

All Bulgarian students here—the last hangover of the "eternal" friendship between Sofia and Belgrade—packed up and left.

### *Travel Strictly Curbed*

The city is being divided into zones on the outskirts, where travel is difficult. Three of the remaining Italian diplomats, who are now sheltering in their legation, have so far unsuccessfully tried to get their golf clubs from the clubhouse, which is impossible to enter.

It is reported by some listeners that the German radio has toned down its press attacks on this country, but early this morning the Stuttgart station called on the Croats to revolt and predicted that they would be "freed" by the Reich within a few days.

The Germans seem to be adopting the same injured tone as used against Norway, Poland and other victims. The Nazi radio asserts that two Yugoslav motorized divisions are menacing the Reich, although the last published edition of the Taschenbuch Heera fails to mention the existence of any such divisions. The Hungarian press describes the Yugoslav defensive mobilization as an action hostile to Germany.

The Avala Agency published today a declaration by the German Consul General at Ljubljana that certain foreign stations had been making false assertions about the German minority situation in Slovenia and that he personally could vouch for the fact that many lies had been spread on the situation.

Ali through Southeastern Europe tension was reported. It is said here that three new Turkish military summonses have been issued in Izmir, Istanbul and Thrace. A new British military mission left Ankara for Thrace tonight.

Special precautions have been taken by the German Army advancing through Slovakia, where armed guards have been placed on all oil trains to prevent sabotage. Saboteurs have been pouring sacks of sugar into the tanks. Thirty-five thousand German children have been evacuated to Slovakia and a similar number is expected. Detachments of Elite and Hlinka Guards have been placed on watch at Poprad, Smokovec, Trencanska and Teplice.

## NAZIS SEE BRITISH ERRING IN BALKANS

**Predict Second Dunkerque as Result of Choice to Fight in Greece Instead of Libya—Bengazi's Fall Is Hailed—"Miscalculation" Made Topic for Analysis—Italians Get Lift for Morale.**

BY GUIDO ENDERIS

BERLIN, April 5—The evacuation of Bengazi, Libya, is the outstanding topic of speculation in German military circles, which interpret the surrender of North African conquests as a decision to expand Britain's war bases in the Balkans.

Compelled to choose between Bengazi and Salonika, Britain has chosen Salonika, was the comment of authoritative quarters in Berlin. It is said by Germans to be significant that the British evacuation of an advanced military post in North Africa, whose strategic value was acclaimed by the British only two months ago, happens to synchronize with the dispatch of large bodies of effectives to the north shore of the Aegean Sea, which apparently is now to become the scene of Britain's military expansion in the Balkans.

As German experts view recent military events in the Eastern Mediterranean sector, Britain's hopes converged on her ability to create a new front in the Balkans. The Germans assert that she has succeeded with the aid of propaganda in enlisting Yugoslavia in the anti-German line-up.

### *Change of Front Seen*

While she may have thus attained an expansion of the theater of war, the move, the Germans state, it nevertheless leaves Britain with a Mediterranean front and confers on Germany all the benefits of our "inner line." In short, Britain evacuated Libya for a front that includes Albania, Greece and eventually Yugoslavia.

This is called a British miscalculation and is said to have these disadvantages:

- 1 The loss of Libya.
- 2 Britain is dependent on the vulnerable Mediterranean routes for the transshipment of troops
3. Britain has lost the bird securely in hand for a doubtful offset in the Balkans.

German military experts went so far today as to declare that the British, perhaps unconsciously, had played into the hands of the German military leaders in committing a strategic error of transferring the military center of gravity to a point far removed from the home base and safe lines of communications. The Germans, on the other hand, they say, can bring the full weight of their preponderant materiel superiority unhampered into play in the Balkans.

German positions in Libya, it is asserted here, have always been designated a subsidiary area of war, although they now are amply protected and may yet play an important strategic role.

The British are said to boast of "elite" expeditionary forces that are being hurried to the Balkans, and German quarters indulge in pleasant speculation as to whether German strategy would have succeeded in coaxing the British on to a battlefield from which they cannot escape and where—not at Bengazi but at Salonika—a new Dunkerque may await them.

This week's edition of Das Reich, meanwhile, publishes a brief biography of Lieut Gen Edwin Rommel, commander of the German African Corps. General Rommel, the son of a hand worker from Heidesheim and highly decorated World War officer, is forty-nine years old and was one of the first Brown Shirt leaders in Wuerttemberg where he first met Adolf Hitler.

He later became a teacher in the German War College and is the author of "Infantry Attacks," a practical volume that made him renowned in German military circles. Following the annexation of Austria, General Rommel became head of the War College at Weiner Neustadt. At the time of the march into Austria General Rommel was the head of Herr Hitler's field headquarters as he was later in the Sudetenland during the march into Prague and during the Polish campaign.

In the beginning of 1940 Herr Hitler made him commander of the tank division, with which he performed great deeds in the West, for General Rommel was reported usually to have been in the very front line with his tanks and personally to have aided in the performance of any task that had to be done.

## FURTHER ADVANCE REPORTED

ROME, April 5—Italian and German motorized columns pushed north of Bengazi, Libya, yesterday, it was announced today, taking with them high hopes for the reconquest of Cyrenaica. Weeks ago German circles here were confidently predicting that the Axis would have Cyrenaica back by the end of April, and everybody now feels that they have got off to a good start.

The military results that are being obtained are less important for the moment than the tonic, psychological effect on the Italian people. They are sorry that they could not have done this themselves, and they know that nothing can restore the men lost or repair the material damage done, but, at least, they feel that the succession of defeats has been broken and their faith in the invincibility of the Germans has been fortified.

They have something that counteracts the terrible news from East Africa. Incidentally, everything that the Italian newspapers have about the drive in Libya comes from Berlin.

## REICH BOOSTS OIL BY RAIL

**Increases Traffic to Offset Closing of Danube River.**

BUCHAREST, Rumania, April 5 (UP)—Oil authorities here reported that Germany had taken special measures to increase transport of petroleum to the Reich by rail as a result of closing of the Danube to shipping by action of Yugoslav authorities.

The transport of Rumanian oil to Germany since the outbreak of the war has been a major problem, especially since the division of Poland between Germany and Russia which brought an end to the quickest and shortest direct rail route.

With the only other available rail route crowded with other shipping, traffic specialists started work on doubling the pipeline between the oil fields and the Danubian port of Giurgiu. It is reported that the new pipeline will be completed this Summer.

## YUGOSLAVIA PLANS WAR, NAZIS CHARGE

**Berlin Sees Peril in Arming by Belgrade—Press Calls Independence at End.**

BY C. BROOKS PETERS

BERLIN, April 5—An increase in the tension of existing relations between Germany and Yugoslavia was indicated today by a brief announcement in the press here that "Yugoslavia is preparing for war."

The mobilization proclamation by King Peter placed the entire armed forces of Yugoslavia, effective last Tuesday, on a footing of the fullest preparedness, it was explained.

Thus, while no declaration of policy from the new Belgrade government has been made, German quarters profess to see in the military preparations of Yugoslavia a further indication of the increasing seriousness of the present situation.

It is said in authoritative quarters here, moreover, that Germany has virtually no more diplomatic contact with the Yugoslav Government. Ivan Andritch, the Yugoslav Minister, is still in Berlin, but it was stated that he had not paid a call in the Wilhelmstrasse.

["Yugoslavia has ceased to be a nation," was the way some German commentators put it, according to The Associated Press.]

### *Compared to Czecho-Slovakia*

Editorials in several leading newspapers that are believed to represent authoritative views and whose statement tonight are emphasized by the semi-official *Dienst aus Deutschland*, declare that ethnologically Yugoslavia resembles former Czecho-Slovakia and after the latter State was and is the least consolidated nation in Europe.

It is composed of Serbs, Croats, Slovenes, Magyars, Albanians and Macedonians, these editorials assert, but the Serbs have always been the dominating factor in determining the policies of Yugoslavia.

## NAZIS ADVANCE IN YUGOSLAVIA, BOMB BELGRADE

**German Push Slow—Aerial Drive Is Greatest in the Attacks Upon Yugoslavia, Greece—Danube is Blocked—Yugoslavs Sink Barges at Iron Gate—British Land Along Coast.**

BERNE, Switzerland, Monday, April 7—The German armed forces struck by land and by air against Yugoslavia and Greece at dawn yesterday and by mid-afternoon, according to radio reports of the German High Command, they were advancing slowly but steadily through enemy territory beyond the frontiers.

The first "weak" resistance of the defenders had been broken, a German report stated, and thereafter "systematic progress was made despite the difficulties of the terrain."

The Yugoslav Air Force was extremely active throughout the late morning and early afternoon yesterday, bombing German supply columns moving over pontoon bridges connecting Bulgaria and Rumania and covering Yugoslav Army engineers in an operation during which they are reported to have succeeded in closing the Iron Gate passage of the Danube by sinking four concrete-laden barges in the channel, which is extremely narrow at that point.

### *British Forces Landed*

British forces, protected by units of the British and Yugoslav navies, proceeded up the Adriatic coast almost unhindered to land at at least three points, from which they appeared to plan to turn the Drina massif on the north, in order to flank any prolonged German line pushing down from the Baranya triangle of Hungary.

The German Air Force, besides supporting operations of the land forces, launched far-flung attacks on Yugoslav and Greek airports, troop concentrations, communication centers and traffic junctions, German radio bulletins stated. Belgrade was said to have been attacked twice yesterday by "stronger forces" of bombers, dive-bombers and destroyer planes. [The Yugoslav capital was raided again last night, the German news agency D. N. B. reported, according to an Associated Press dispatch from Berne.] According to German reports, fires were raging in the Yugoslav capital last night despite all efforts of the Belgrade air-raid protection squads to get them under control.

The most stubborn resistance to the German invaders came from the Greek defenders of the Struma Valley pass in the western corner of the Greek-Bulgarian frontier sector, said the German High Command. At other points in Greece and in Yugoslavia the massed German forces were pushing in past the frontier defense lines, it was asserted.

Here in Berne no communication was to be had with either Berlin or Rome. German-occupied countries of Southeastern Europe likewise could not be reached. The German radio broadcasts were the only means of receiving Nazi reports on the first day's operations in the Balkan war, and, gradually, as the first communiqués were supplemented by more detailed statements, the picture as it was presented in Germany could be pieced together.

Berne telephone communications with Berlin and Rome were reopened at 6.45 A. M. today.

### *Italian Activity Reported*

No German report specified the points of entry into Yugoslavia and Greece, with the exception of the attack through the Struma Valley. The German Air Force, according to communiqués of the High Command, was covering the northern districts of Yugoslavia, including part of Serbia, while Italian air squadrons sought to win the essential superiority in the air over the southern territories.

The German air attacks were described as having centered on Belgrade. That the Yugoslav capital had been officially declared an "open city" before the outbreak of hostilities was not mentioned in the German reports. On the contrary, they spoke of the "fortress of Belgrade," as last Fall they spoke of the "fortress of London," and the force of their attack on the capital appeared to have been correspondingly great.

Aside from the Struma Valley attack, most of the German operations yesterday seemed to be confined to aerial activity, with Belgrade raided three times, once when no bombs were dropped at 3.25 A. M., another shortly after 9 A. M., when dive-bombers and Messerschmitts strafed and bombed "military objectives" in the open town of Belgrade, and the third time shortly after 2.30 P. M., when the German forces returned to attack the capital of Yugoslavia.

It was this accent on aerial activity that led military observers here to the conclusion that for once Adolf Hitler had attacked unprepared, and the only reason for this precipitous operation was felt in diplomatic quarters here



to have been the unexpected signature of the Soviet-Yugoslav pact at 3 o'clock this morning. For the most conservative estimate in informed quarters here as to the time necessary for Herr Hitler to rearray his forces, in view of Yugoslavia's repudiation of the Vienna signature, was at least two weeks, and, demanding the impossible from his army chiefs, Herr Hitler allowed them only eleven days.

The German radio described the Belgrade railway station as extensively damaged. Freight yards, rolling stock and buildings were blasted by high-explosive bombs, it was said.

"Troop casernes" within the city were heavily bombed, the German reports continued. One announcement mentioned the pontoon bridge on the eastern outskirts of Belgrade as having been completely demolished. This bridge, it was stated, had been built only a short time ago to facilitate the passage of troops through Belgrade. German bombs were likewise stated to have destroyed building materials and equipment stacked up beside the bridge.

Twenty-four Yugoslav planes were reported shot down and forty-four were destroyed on the ground. The destruction of a large number of other grounded planes was considered likely, the German High Command added.

German losses for the day, it was stated, totaled two machines. No mention was made by the Germans of aerial engagements with the British Royal Air Force. It appeared, however, from the tenor of the Nazi reports that there was much yet to be done before the air superiority that had played such a vital part in the German Blitzkrieg tactics could be won over Yugoslavia.

#### *Big Air Armadas Suggested*

Nevertheless, there was every indication that Reich Marshal Hermann Goering was not sparing planes for the attack. The phrase "stronger forces," used in the High Command's report of air operations over Yugoslavia, indicated attacks en masse, and it is probable that up to 100 planes or more were used in each of the attacks reportedly made on Belgrade.

While it was officially stated that "German forces advancing to Greece and in Serbia have everywhere established contact with the enemy," no mention in the German radio reports was made of the movements of Italian troops in Yugoslavia. Italian bombers, it was stated, attacked airdromes and other "military objectives" in Herzegovina. But that was all that was said of the operations of Germany's Italian ally.

The German radio admitted, however, that British troops had landed at two points on the Dalmatian coast, one of which was said to be Ragusa. Another German radio bulletin reported close cooperation between the ground staffs of the Yugoslav and British Air Forces. Since the Yugoslav Air Force numbers among its machines several British types—as well as some German Messerschmitts—such cooperation could readily be undertaken with the likelihood of becoming effective in short order.

#### **NAZIS REPORT BOMBINGS**

BERNE, Switzerland, Monday, April 7 (AP)—The German news agency D. N. B. reported early today that Belgrade, Yugoslav capital, was bombed late last night for the third time since German troops moved against Yugoslavia yesterday at dawn.

A communication center northwest of Zagreb also was reported bombed. Zagreb is the capital of Croatia in Northern Yugoslavia.

D. N. B. reported thirty-three planes were shot down yesterday and forty-eight others destroyed on the ground at a cost to the Germans of only four planes.

A German force of 250 planes made an attack on Belgrade yesterday morning, a neutral military observer reported here.

#### **BELGRADE "SEA OF FLAMES"**

ZURICH, Switzerland, April 6 (UP)—Yugoslav and Greek troops fighting side by side with British soldiers battled desperately tonight to halt Germany's war machine crashing down across their frontiers while the Nazi radio boasted that day-long aerial bombardment had left Belgrade "a sea of flames."

Adolf Hitler's vast Balkan army and fleets of dive-bombers, striking at dawn to touch off the Balkan powder keg, smashed simultaneously across the northern frontiers of Yugoslavia and Greece while Italy's air force attacked Southern Yugoslavia.

Under daylight bombing that treated Belgrade to the same merciless devastation that Warsaw and Rotterdam suffered, the Yugoslav Government of General Dusan Simovitch was said by the German radio to have fled from Belgrade to a temporary capital at Vranesh, in Southern Serbia, seventy-five miles southeast of Sarajevo.

Other members of the government were said to be evacuating to Cacak, 65 miles south of Belgrade, back behind the Serbian mountains forming the keystone of Yugoslavia's defenses.

The German radio said the German forces smashing down into Greek Thrace and Northern Yugoslavia's flat plains above Zagreb had "reached all objectives everywhere."

Direct communication with Berlin, Rome, Belgrade, Sofia, Budapest and other capitals were cut off, and German radio versions of Adolf Hitler's venture to "drive the British out of Europe and the Mediterranean" dominated all accounts. The German radio said, in describing "steady advance on all fronts," that British troops were fighting shoulder to shoulder with both the Greeks and Yugoslavs within their northern frontiers. The British Air Force was said to have been in control in Yugoslavia since Friday.

British submarines, the German radio said, were operating from Ragusa, Kotor and other bases along the Dalmatian Adriatic coast.

Apparently determined at the outset to wipe out Yugoslavia's Air Force of about 900 planes, the Germans claimed that at least eighty-five Yugoslav planes were destroyed in the first day's fighting. Of these planes, it was said thirty-five were shot down in air battles and the others destroyed on the ground.

The death toll in Belgrade as a result of dive-bombing attacks, wrecking portions of the central part of the capital, was reported heavy, with seventy-three dead in the first raid.

Some reports said an army of nearly 200,000 German mechanized troops was pushing down across the flat plains of Northern Yugoslavia upon Zagreb and Ljubljana, both of which were declared undefended "open cities" along with Belgrade by the Simovitch government last Thursday.

### *Routes of Invasions*

Against Greece, the Germans sent armored columns across the Struma Valley from Southern Bulgaria at two points, rounding the Rhodope Mountains and apparently striking down in two prongs toward Salonika and Kavalla.

Against Yugoslavia, German mechanized forces struck down from Austria into the Maribor sector of Yugoslavia, north of the Croat capital of Zagreb, another force was believed to have struck westward from Rumania toward Belgrade, barely fifty miles from the frontier, and a third drove westward from Bulgaria toward the vital Vardar River in the region of Skoplje.

This three-pronged attack on Yugoslavia appeared to be a huge pincers aimed at cutting off the Yugoslav army in the north, separating it from Southern Serbia and Greece before it could fall back to strong defenses below the Serbian mountains.

The Belgrade radio went dead during the first German aerial bombardment of the Yugoslav capital. The Nazi radio, in broadcast "eyewitness" accounts by German pilots, said the exposed city was "a sea of flames." Six Yugoslav military barracks, including the chief barracks of Belgrade, were said to have been bombed and completely destroyed. Ten Yugoslav bombers were shot down in this attack, according to a D. N. B. Berlin dispatch.

The German radio, quoting an "eyewitness" account of a German pilot aboard a bomber that took off to bomb Belgrade, said:

"The Stukas have begun their work of destruction before us \* \* \* Fires are aglow over Belgrade. \* \* \* Belgrade is a sea of flames."

The account was entitled, "Bombs on Belgrade." It said:

"The order is given. The bombs drop. They hit squarely and a brown cloud of dust flies up. Beneath us it thunders and rocks \* \* \* fire and smoke. More and more planes come behind us."

### *Gibes at Yugoslav Regime*

The German radio at 6:55 P. M. said that "the Yugoslav Government already had announced its withdrawal from Belgrade," and it was added derisively that the regime of Premier Simovitch had fled southward before the first German bomb fell.

"The Yugoslavs jubilantly await help from the United States but we advise them to ask the Greeks what American help they have received," said the German radio. "So far the Greeks have not received a single piece of American war material."

The radio then admitted that the invasion of Yugoslavia and Greece was "no military promenade—no one knows that better than our military leaders—but although it will be difficult it will be won and then there will be peace for all the Balkans."

Another German allegation was that the Yugoslavs, frantically appealing to Britain for material aid, were told to "drive the Italians from Albania and obtain what war materials you can there."

A Yugoslav troop train was said to have been bombed by Germans north of the Danube "with great success."

### **TURKS TELL OF DRIVES**

LONDON, April 6 (AP)—The Ankara radio, heard here tonight, said twelve to fifteen German divisions were striking at Zagreb, Yugoslavia, from the Austrian fron-

tier with the object of splitting the Yugoslav Army in two.

The Yugoslav Army, however, was declared to be retreating from the frontiers with the intention of conducting defensive warfare in the rugged interior country. The main German offensive was reported directed at Nish, in Eastern Yugoslavia, on a line with Sofia, Bulgaria.

Three German divisions have crossed the Rumanian-Yugoslav frontier toward Belgrade, fifty miles away, it was stated, and two motorized divisions and one infantry division were proceeding from Szeged, Hungary, in the general direction of Belgrade, 100 miles to the south.

### **VICHY TO BE NEUTRAL ON BALKAN CONFLICT**

**France, Former Yugoslav Ally, Is Curbed by Armistice Terms.**

VICHY, France, April 6—The attitude of France in the Yugoslav crisis may be expected to be confined to the strictest observance of neutrality. A former ally of Yugoslavia, she is bound by the terms of the armistice not to countenance any demonstrations that can in any way hinder or reflect upon the war operations of the occupying power.

This will be enforced in the press with regard to both comment, which must be strictly neutral, and news presentation, which will be confined to official communiqués and colorless headlines.

A Yugoslav announcement from Belgrade, charging that Germany was the aggressor, has been eliminated from tomorrow's newspapers in the unoccupied zone.

### **U. S. PLEDGES QUICK AID**

**Hull Assails Nazis—"Barbaric Invasion" of Yugoslavia Held Step to Rule World—Arms To Go At Once—Red Cross Aid Rushed—Shortage of Ships Is Serious Problem.**

BY TURNER CATLEDGE

WASHINGTON, April 6—Secretary of State Cordell Hull, speaking for the United States Government after consultation with President Roosevelt, today denounced the "barbaric invasion" of Yugoslavia by Germany as another chapter in "attempted world conquest," and hastened to assure the besieged nation that this country was proceeding with all possible speed to support it with military and other supplies.

This, Mr. Hull said, is in keeping with the American policy "of helping those who are defending themselves against would-be conquerors."

The Secretary of State did not mention Greece, also a subject of the newest German thrust into the Balkans, but this was said to be because this government had previously criticized Italy's attempted invasion of that country. President Roosevelt, moreover, has always included Greece among the nations deserving of the material help of the United States in resisting aggression. Supplies of arms and ammunition from Army and Navy stocks are already on their way to the Greek forces under the lease-lend aid program.

Mr. Hull's remarks were contained in a formal statement, issued in an atmosphere growing more tense at the capital because of this new outbreak of hostilities and attempts of officials to settle our own internal industrial strife so the Allied-aid program may be speeded to the fullest.



The statement had the approval not only of the President but also of other key officials and experts of the State Department whom the Secretary called into conference early today.

Immediately after that session, attended by Under-Secretary Sumner Welles, Assistant Secretary of State Adolf A. Berle, Jr., Green H. Hackworth, legal adviser to the Secretary; Ray Atherton, chief of the European Division; Stanley K. Hornbeck, adviser on political relations, and several others, Mr. Hull sent a cablegram to Arthur Bliss Lane, United States Minister at Belgrade, instructing him to remain with the Yugoslav Government wherever it might go.

He instructed the Minister further, however, to maintain at all times a senior member of his staff in charge of the legation at Belgrade.

All direct communications with Belgrade were cut off and American officials had to rely chiefly on sources outside Yugoslavia, chiefly the German radio, for information as to what was going on there. There was enough to make it certain that the Germans were moving in force, with aerial bombings and all the other tactics associated with a German Blitzkrieg.

Mr. Hull did not await official word, however, before putting this nation on record as to this new conflict.

*Secretary Hull's Statement*

"The barbaric invasion of Yugoslavia and the attempt to annihilate that country by brute force is but another chapter in the present planned movement of attempted world conquest and domination," the Secretary said.

"Another small nation has been assaulted by the forces of aggression and is further proof that there are no geographical limitations or bounds of any kind to their movement for world conquest.

"The American people have the greatest sympathy for the nation which has been thus so outrageously attacked and we follow closely the valiant struggle the Yugoslav people are making to protect their homes and preserve their liberty.

"This government, with its policy of helping those who are defending themselves against would-be conquerors, is now proceeding as speedily as possible to send military and other supplies to Yugoslavia."

The State Department had not received confirmation of a broadcast by the German radio that the Yugoslav Government had moved from Belgrade. The instructions to Mr. Lane to remain always with the official government was taken in anticipation of such a development.

Constantin Fotitch, Minister of Yugoslavia, called at the State Department during the conference of officials and conferred afterward with Under-Secretary Welles. He called to obtain information as to developments in his country and to discuss material needs.

Mr. Fotitch left in mid-afternoon for New York, where, it was understood, he would arrange shipping facilities for speeding American military supplies to the Yugoslav Army. He had learned of the invasion late last night as he left a dinner of the Gridiron Club, which he had attended along with President Roosevelt, Secretary Hull, Viscount Halifax, British Ambassador; Cimon P. Diamantopoulos, Greek Minister, and many other officials and diplomats. He had received an ovation when introduced, obviously as a testimonial to his country's defiance of Germany.

Norman H. Davis, chairman of the American Red Cross, announced that aid valued at more than \$1,000,000 would be given at once by his organization through its sister society in Yugoslavia. He authorized the purchase and shipment of relief materials including ten field hospitals and tons of medicines and blankets.

Immediately on receiving the news of the invasion of Yugoslavia, Mr. Davis sent the following cable to Mr. Lane:

"Please convey to the president and secretary general of the Red Cross of Yugoslavia earnest desire of American Red Cross to extend all possible assistance in present emergency. Also advise them we are proceeding to purchase and will ship at earliest possible moment large quantities of medical and surgical supplies, including ten field hospitals complete, 100,000 blankets, 2,000,000 surgical dressings, surgical and hospital equipment, including four portable X-ray units, sera, vaccines, 1,500,000 quinine tablets, iodine, alcohol and ether. Also ascertain if there are any other special needs that the American Red Cross might provide."

A German attack on Yugoslavia had been considered a foregone certainty in Washington for several days but the report of the actual beginning of hostilities came as a shock. It caused defense officials to double their efforts to settle the strikes that have been interfering with production of materials for rearmament and aid to the non-Axis Allies, and to avert threatened walkouts.

German agents were said to be watching American domestic developments with increasing concern, fearing that the strike situation, coupled with news from abroad, might cause the United States to go into a state of national emergency. The Germans are said to fear that if a state of emergency is declared, the popular support would be solidified behind President Roosevelt and the government would then take strong measures to curb labor troubles and other interferences with the policy of all-out aid to Britain and her Allies.

The tenseness over the situation created by the new invasion and the labor strife was apparent throughout the capital. Secretary Hull was at his desk in the department at 10 A. M., and State Department officials came and went most of the day. The President kept in close touch.

The amount and nature of aid to be given Yugoslavia by the United States was decided upon in part before the report of the invasion but details are being kept secret. The plans for aid were worked out in collaboration with Britain. Experts believe Britain may divert to her Balkan allies some of the materials she has obtained from this country.

The problem of shipping is a most serious one in connection with aid to Yugoslavia, just as it is in assistance to Britain and Greece. Speculation has increased in Washington over the prospect of President Roosevelt's opening the Red Sea to American shipping by declaring it out of the war area under the terms of the Neutrality Act. Re-opening of the Red Sea would enable this country to move war supplies nearer to the new war zone and thus might free much British merchant shipping for service in the North Atlantic.

Many advocates of all-out aid to Britain and her allies insist upon amending the Neutrality Act to permit American vessels to transport goods directly to the Allied countries and to provide convoys if necessary for their safety.

The convoy question is scheduled to come up before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee next Wednesday.

Senator Walter F. George of Georgia, the chairman, plans to convene the committee at that time to consider a resolution introduced by Senator Charles W. Tobey of New Hampshire to prohibit the use of convoys in delivering goods to warring nations. Senator George said he opposed such a prohibition, holding that it would weaken this government's program to aid the Allies.

## MOSCOW BLAMES NAZIS FOR ATTACK; SAYS YUGOSLAVIA WANTED PEACE

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MOSCOW, April 6—The Soviet Russian press declared today that the people of Yugoslavia did not want war and hailed the Soviet's new pact of non-aggression and friendship with Yugoslavia as an "outstanding milestone" in efforts of the two countries to preserve peace.

Although Pravda, the Communist party newspaper, and Izvestia, government newspaper, declared the pact was "significant" and rested on a "sound foundation" consistent with the Soviet "peace policy," the press carefully refrained from saying what deeper meaning might be attached to the document.

Hard raps were taken inferentially, however, at the German contention that Yugoslavia had sought the war that broke upon her today.

Photographs of the signature ceremony, published prominently, disclosed that Joseph Stalin attended. The pictures showed Mr. Stalin, Premier-Foreign Commissar Vyacheslav Molotov and Andrey Y. Vishninsky, Vice Commissar of Foreign Affairs, beaming at Milan Gavrilovitch, the Yugoslav Minister. There was no mention in today's Soviet press of the outbreak of hostilities in the Balkans. But Pravda spoke approvingly of the Yugoslav Army as "one of the best in Southeastern Europe," whose soldiers are well-trained and which disclosed its courage in World War battles.

[The German radio, heard by the Columbia Broadcasting System in New York, reported signature of the pact without comment at noon yesterday, long after German troops were on the march into Yugoslavia and Greece.]

Pravda said "latest events in Yugoslavia most clearly showed that the people of Yugoslavia are striving for peace."

"In numerous demonstrations and meetings," it said, "broad sections of the population expressed their protest against the foreign policy of the Cvetkovitch Government, which threatened to involve Yugoslavia in the orbit of war. When the new government headed by General Simovitch [Premier Dusan Simovitch] came to power it clearly emphasized its desire for peace and preservation of friendly relations with all States, above all with the States neighboring with Yugoslavia."

*Says People Back Simovitch*

The paper added that Premier Simovitch's policies had received the support of the "majority of people" and that the accord with Russia was convincing proof of the Yugoslav Government's desire to "strengthen peace and prevent the spreading of war."

Hailing the pact as showing the "unwavering consistency of the Soviet peace policy," Izvestia said the pact helps "prevent the spread of war."

"One must bear in mind that it was concluded in the midst of war, which already has drawn into its orbit more than 1,000,000,000 people," the paper said. "As shown

by numerous facts, this war tends, moreover, to draw into bloody slaughter new peoples and countries, one after another. This alone clearly lends especial import to the treaty on friendship and non-aggression between the U. S. S. R. and Yugoslavia."

Izvestia said the treaty's significance "increases especially since the treaty was concluded between the powerful Soviet Union, which steadfastly pursues a policy of peace, and Yugoslavia, for whom preservation of peace now forms a main objective."

The newspaper reviewed Yugoslavia's defensive measures, including the designation of Belgrade and other cities as undefended, and said:

"This shows what an alarming situation was created on Yugoslav frontiers," despite that country's reiterated desire for peace.

The army organ, Red Star, declared at the same time that Italian capitulation in East Africa was only a question of time, and said the British loss of Benghazi "does not mean the British as easily as that will give away all Cyrenaica."

"The British command may now start to move its main forces from Ethiopia to North Africa and the Mediterranean basin which will be very rich in events in April," the paper said.

## YUGOSLAV ENVOY GRATEFUL

MOSCOW April 6 (UP)—Milan Gavrilovitch, Yugoslav Minister to Russia, expressed "deepest gratitude" tonight to Joseph Stalin and his government for the "utmost sympathy" it has shown Yugoslavia during the German invasion.

News from Berlin of the Nazi attack on Yugoslavia and Greece and the bombing of Belgrade was broadcast without comment.

M. Gavrilovitch said that "although the treaty was signed on April 5, before the outbreak of war, it provides for continued friendly relations and understanding." He disclosed that negotiations for the treaty were begun last Thursday upon Yugoslav initiative and concluded two days later, "which is a rare record for a document of such international importance, made possible only because Soviet leaders are so sympathetic toward Yugoslavia."

Yugoslav circles said the treaty was signed about midnight in the presence of Mr. Stalin.

United States Ambassador Laurence A. Steinhardt and British Ambassador Sir Stafford Cripps conferred today with M. Gavrilovitch.

## SOVIET PACT DISCOUNTED

**Doubt Expressed That Russia Plans to Enter the War.**

BY WALTER DURANTY

TOKYO, April 6—At first sight the Soviet-Yugoslav friendship and non-aggression treaty seems to herald a change in Russia's foreign policy. Its signing on the eve of the German attack on Yugoslavia might well be taken as an indication the U. S. S. R. is swinging away from the German camp. I think this view is short-sighted and exaggerated and that the pact does not imply abandonment of the Soviet position of neutrality.

It is a moral gesture of great importance and shows even more strongly than the Russian notes to Bulgaria and Turkey where Soviet sympathies lie in the Balkan struggle. But I believe it is more platonic than practical.

That today the U.S.S.R., which a witty foreigner in Moscow a year or more ago described as the "biggest of terrified neutrals," is far more confident than before of its own unity, preparedness and military strength is evident to all except the most prejudiced observers in Moscow.

But the greater confidence and the real improvement that warrant it are a very different thing from the recklessness that might lead Russia to abandon its cherished policy of peace, which is so vitally necessary from both an economic and political standpoint. Nor do I think that the latest Soviet gesture was "timed" to try to prevent a German onslaught on Yugoslavia or that Adolf Hitler retaliated by a sudden act of war.

On the other hand, it is certain the Kremlin realized the possible consequences of the new pact and its moral repercussions in Germany, Great Britain, the United States and Japan. They did not, I believe, intend it as a military challenge to Germany. But it cannot fail to show the world how far Russia has traveled since August, 1939.

If it be true that Germany maintains large forces of troops near its eastern borders it is equally true the Soviet Union has even heavier concentrations from the Black Sea to the Baltic and that, now fully reorganized, the Red Army is ready to defend Russian soil.

Much will depend on how Germany takes this Russian gesture. If Herr Hitler keeps cool I do not think it will even affect the supplies of food, oil and other commodities, being sent from the U. S. S. R. to Germany. Nevertheless, the Russians doubtless will feel themselves entitled to send supplies also to the Turks and Yugoslavs as a practical demonstration of sympathy and friendship.

#### TEXT OF THE SOVIET-YUGOSLAV AMITY TREATY

MOSCOW, Sunday, April 6 (UP)—Tass News Agency gave out today the text of the treaty between the Soviets and Yugoslavia, as follows.

A treaty of friendship and non-aggression between the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the Kingdom of Yugoslavia.

The Presidium of the Supreme Soviet U. S. S. R. and His Majesty the King of Yugoslavia, inspired by friendship existing between the two countries and convinced that preservation of peace forms their common interest, decided to conclude a treaty of friendship and non-aggression and appointed for this purpose their representatives.

Presidium of the Supreme Soviet U. S. S. R.—Vyacheslav M. Molotov, chairman of the Council of Peoples Commissars and Peoples Commissar of Foreign Affairs; His Majesty the King of Yugoslavia—Milan Gavrilovich, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of Yugoslavia, Bozhin Simich and Colonel Dragutin Savich, which representatives, after exchanging their credentials found in proper form and due order, agreed on the following:

#### ARTICLE I

The two contracting parties mutually undertake to desist from any aggression against each other and to respect the independence, sovereign rights and territorial integrity of the U.S.S.R. and Yugoslavia.

#### ARTICLE II

In the event of aggression against one of the contracting parties on the part of a third power, the other contracting party undertakes to observe a policy of friendly relations towards that party.

#### ARTICLE III

The present treaty is concluded for a term of five years. If none of the contracting parties finds it necessary to denounce the present treaty one year before expiration of the above terms, the treaty automatically will remain valid for the following five years.

#### ARTICLE IV

The present treaty comes into force from the moment of its signing. The treaty is subject to ratification as soon as possible. The exchange of ratification instruments shall take place in Belgrade.

#### ARTICLE V

Treaty is drawn up in two originals in Russian and the Serbo-Croat languages, both texts being equally valid.

Moscow, April 5

On behalf of the Supreme Soviet of Soviet Russia.

V. M. MOLOTOFF.

On behalf of His Majesty King Peter

M. GAVRILOVITCH.

B. SIMICH

Colonel SAVICH

#### JAPANESE "REGRET" YUGOSLAV INVASION

Link Sentiment to View That It was Inevitable—Swift Nazi Victory Foreseen.

BY OTTO D. TOLICHUS

TOKYO, April 6—Although declared to be natural and inevitable and bound to end in a "glorious" German victory, the German Spring drive into the Balkans is, nevertheless, considered in Japanese quarters today to be a "matter for regret" and the simultaneous announcement of the Russo-Yugoslav treaty is viewed with some concern.

The Japanese foreign office refrains from all comment pending details and official information.

For the moment, however, Japan expects to continue her policy of watchful waiting, especially in view of the fact that Foreign Minister Yosuke Matsuoka, is arriving in Moscow tomorrow. Nor does Japan feel that the Balkan hostilities have created a situation involving her alliance with Germany and Italy. As Asahi puts it, "Hostilities between Germany and Yugoslavia have created a situation in which Germany is exposed to attack from Yugoslavia. Because of this, the invocation of Article III of the Italo-German-Japanese alliance pact appears to be receiving consideration."

However, as in the case of hostilities between Italy and Greece, the present case is not recognized as requiring any special discussion of policy or cooperation.

Editorially the press takes a stand unequivocally by the side of Italy and Germany and predicts another German Blitzkrieg campaign which should have the effect of "sunshine after rain" in cleaning up the precarious Balkan situation. At the same time blame for the outbreak of

hostilities is put entirely on Yugoslavia and "on Anglo-American manoeuvres which instigated her into action against Germany"

#### *Press Views Are Divided*

"It appears that Britain and the United States are pleased with what they regard as an extension of the fighting situation," says Asahi, which adds "We take this occasion to pray for military success of the Reich and Italy"

As regards the Russo-Yugoslav pact, the press represents it on the one hand as a "mere cry of cheers, empty of substance," which cannot affect the outcome, and on the other hand as a factor "which cannot be denied political significance and therefore deserving special attention"

In the end, however, the Japanese press recognized that the Balkans must of necessity remain a sideshow and that, in the words of Asahi, "after all is said and done it is considered that the key to the final decision in the present war will be decisive action in the Channel lying between Britain and Germany," and Germany's strength is declared to be such that the Balkan operations will in no wise affect the German campaign against Britain herself

#### **PREDICTS YUGOSLAVIA'S FALL**

TOKYO, Monday, April 7 (UP)—Germany will subjugate Yugoslavia "at one stroke," Major Gen Kiyofuku Okamoto, an expert on the German Army, who recently returned from Berlin, told the newspaper Asahi in an interview published today

Greece and Yugoslavia lack mechanized equipment and air strength with which to stave off the German war machine, General Okamoto said, adding that Britain hardly could have transferred sufficient men and equipment from Africa to play a decisive role in the Balkans

The general said Adolf Hitler could continue the Battle of the Atlantic and his attacks on the British Isles, with increasingly severe blows, despite the Balkan outbreak. The Germans, he said, have manpower, equipment and air strength enough to fight on three fronts at once, if necessary

Japanese diplomatic circles, Asahi said, believe the Yugoslav developments "will furnish an excellent opportunity to eliminate once and for all time the dangerous situation that long has existed in the Balkans," and that the Axis powers will be strengthened as result of the present operations

The surprise pact between Yugoslavia and Russia, the newspaper said, will not affect the general world outbreak unfavorably for the Axis

#### **BRITAIN HAILS YUGOSLAVIA FOR "VALIANT RESISTANCE"**

The London radio announced last night that the British Government had sent the following message to the Yugoslav Government

"The savage outrage committed by Germany against Yugoslavia without the slightest provocation and the valiant resistance of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes ranges the British Empire on the side of the southern Slavs. We welcome them as a resolute and powerful ally.

"We renew the comradeship which in the Great War carried us through tribulations to victory. We will conduct the war in common and make peace only when right has been vindicated and law and justice are again enthroned"

The broadcast was recorded in New York by the National Broadcasting Company.

#### **KULOVETCH REPORTED KILLED IN NAZIS' RAID**

**Yugoslav Priest-Politician Said to Have Died in Belgrade.**

BERNE, Switzerland, Monday, April 7 (AP)—The Yugoslav Public Works Minister, the Rev. Fran Kulovetch, has been killed in the bombing of Belgrade, the French Havas news agency said in a dispatch today from Ljubljana, Yugoslavia

The Rev. Fran Kulovetch, a Catholic priest, was leader of the Peasant party of Slovenia and had been an important factor in the Yugoslav Cabinets since 1927, when he was Minister of Agriculture. He became Public Works Minister after the recent coup d'etat engineered by General Dusan Simovitch

His appointment as one of the counselors to King Peter was reported under consideration. The suggestion had come from Vice Premier Vladimir Matchek, Croat leader

#### **YUGOSLAVIA DENIES GERMANY'S CHARGES**

**Statement Issued In Vichy Says She Is "Unjustly Attacked".**

VICHY, France, April 6 (AP)—An official Yugoslav statement issued in Vichy today charged Germany was guilty of aggression.

"The real reason for the German aggression is that Germany wanted Yugoslavia to depart from the position of neutrality she adopted in the European conflict since the beginning

#### **FORCES IN GREECE, BRITAIN CONFIRMS**

**News Ban Lifted to Reveal That Troops Have Been Going In Since Bulgaria's Fall.**

BY ROBERT P. POST

LONDON, April 6—The first British reaction to the simultaneous attacks on Greece and Yugoslavia was the release for publication, at long last, by the censor of something that many persons in these islands have known for weeks—British troops landed in Greece weeks ago.

"After the entry of German troops into Bulgaria and the long-threatened German invasion of the Balkans, His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom, in full consultation with the Dominion Governments concerned, have sent an army into Greece, comprising troops from Great Britain, Australia and New Zealand, to stand in line with the soldiers of our brave allies in defense of their native soil," a Ministry of Information announcement said today. "The British air force, which for some time has been operating in Greece against the Italians, has been strongly reinforced."

### *Troops Guarded Airports*

There have been a few British troops in Greece to guard airports and perform other behind-the-lines functions since a few days after the Graeco-Italian war began. But this is the first official announcement that a fully equipped expeditionary force with all its appurtenances had landed in Greece, weeks ago, and has been steadily reinforced since then.

The reason for this secrecy has not been announced. It was maintained, however, on direct orders from the Middle East despite frequent efforts by persons here to get the ban lifted.

The number of the forces, where they are and what their function in the widening Balkans battle will be is not known. Neither did the British say where they had come from, but it is virtually certain that the bulk of them came from Cairo and other places under General Sir Archibald P. Wavell's command. That may be one explanation of why the British fell back in Eastern Libya.

At the moment the British here do not know exactly what is going on in Greece or in Yugoslavia. Probably they will not know for some time.

But the British troops have been in Greece for some weeks and have been constantly reinforced, the air force has been increased and time has been given to prepare against German aggression. How successful they have been remains to be seen, but at least it can be noted since the British are cleaning up in Eritrea and Ethiopia with great speed. From the British point of view that is all to the good because aid from Turkey will probably be in precise proportion to the extent that the Greeks can check the German advance. In this connection the German reports of strenuous resistance spread like wildfire here.

### *Prepared for Bad News*

But more realistic persons here are not too optimistic. They are prepared for bad news from the Balkans with word of initial German successes. Taking the long-range view, however, the British are inclined to think that the whole thing is not too bad.

There is a focus of resistance established in the Balkans. Another nation has decided to fight rather than to surrender to Herr Hitler's favorite form of warfare.

"This decision was one of Hitler's rather than one of the General Staff," a high official said today. But many persons here are aware that Herr Hitler has got away with some of his most important coups against the advice of his General Staff.

Nevertheless the war has been extended. Those 255 German divisions now have longer lines of communications and now face bigger military tasks. The British Army, which the Germans have never defeated in a face-to-face fight, now has something to dig its teeth into.

Ivan Soubotitch, the Yugoslav Minister to London, spent most of the day in the Foreign Office and also had a talk with Prime Minister Winston Churchill. He also had a long talk with the Greek Minister. Late this afternoon he issued a statement saying that his country had done its best to keep the peace but had been betrayed by the Germans.

Tonight the British Broadcasting Corporation offered its Sunday rendering of the national anthems of all allies. That of Yugoslavia was heard in three parts, one in Croatian, one in Serbian and one in Slovene.

### **YUGOSLAV MINISTER IS ON MISSION HERE**

#### **Fotitch Reported Seeking Transport Facilities.**

Constantine Fotitch, Yugoslav Minister to the United States, arrived here from Washington last night, reportedly to try to arrange for shipping to transport supplies to his beleaguered country. Mr. Fotitch, who is at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel, declined to discuss the purpose of his visit other than to say that he had a busy schedule of appointments today, and that he hoped to return to Washington this evening.

Mr. Fotitch said the reaction of the United States to the attack upon his country had been "splendid" and that the Yugoslavs would be heartened by the promises of American help and the expressions of American sympathy that have been made. He added that the moral prestige of the United States throughout the Balkans was great, and for that reason the stand taken by the United States would have a strong influence there.

Eleven Americans of German descent sent a cablegram to Prime Minister Dusan Simovitch in Belgrade, informing him that millions of Americans of German descent sympathized with the Yugoslavs in their "brave resistance to Nazi aggression" and that they were "especially encouraged by the support given you by Yugoslavs of German descent."

The signatories of the message were Karl Brandt, economist, Palo Alto, Calif.; G. P. Bronisch, administrative specialist, New York; Mary E. Dreier, vice president, National Women's Trade Union League, New York; Christian Gauss, dean of Princeton College, Princeton, N. J.; Mrs. William Allan Neilson, Falls Village, Conn.; Reinhold Niebuhr, professor, Union Theological Seminary, New York; Victor F. Ridder, publisher, New York; George N. Shuster, president, Hunter College, New York; Wilhelm Sollmann, former German Minister of the Interior, Philadelphia; Oswald Garrison Villard, journalist, New York; and Robert F. Wagner, Jr., State Assemblyman, New York.

### **RUMANIANS CALLED TO DEFEND NATION**

#### **General Mobilization Reported—Yugoslavs Are Accused of Attacks on "Neutral".**

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BERNE, Switzerland, April 6—A radio announcement heard here tonight said Rumania had ordered general mobilization. At the same time the Hungarian radio said Hungarian air raid defense reserves had been mobilized.

It was pointed out here that Rumanian mobilization, though not needed in Germany's effort against Yugoslavia and Greece, fitted in with Germany's apparent surprise at the Russian-Yugoslav non-aggression and friendship pact, as yet not fully explained.

Rumanian troops in small numbers already have been stationed on the Pruth River frontier between Rumania and Russia.

### **AXIS REGIONS BLACKED OUT**

ZURICH, Switzerland, April 6 (UP)—Rumania, Hungary and Bulgaria, occupied by German troops and reported to have served as bases for Germany's attacks on Greece and Yugoslavia, prepared hastily for war tonight. Complete nationwide blackouts were reported in all three countries.

Reports that Bulgarian troops already had joined Germany in invading Greece lacked confirmation. Heavy reinforcements of German troops were said to be moving down on Yugoslavia through Hungary, while others moved into the attack from Rumania and Austria.

An official German news agency dispatch from Sofia quoted a Foreign Office spokesman as saying that if Bulgaria should be forced to defend herself "she would not be found unprepared." The spokesman was quoted as adding that Bulgaria was watching the Yugoslav situation with closest interest, but for the present passively.

### BUCHAREST ACCUSES YUGOSLAVS

LONDON, Monday, April 7 (UP)—The Bucharest radio reported early today that, despite Rumania's neutrality the Yugoslavs yesterday shelled the frontier town of Orsova from across the Danube, killing one person.

Yugoslav planes bombed Timisoara and Oravica, as well as a Rumanian airdrome near Arad, the Bucharest radio said. One Yugoslav plane dropped seven bombs on the airdrome, three of which failed to explode, and a second plane, divebombing, hit a farmhouse, killing two persons and injuring three others. Six bombs were said to have been dropped on Oravica.

An immediate protest was made to the Yugoslav Legation, it was said.

### VEILED WARNING ON RUSSIA

LONDON, April 6 (UP)—From a Minister in Prime Minister Winston Churchill's War Cabinet, Minister of Home Security Herbert Morrison, came a slightly veiled warning today to Adolf Hitler that he might run afoul of Russia in the Balkans.

"I believe in the Balkans Hitler may meet some one he doesn't wish to meet," said Mr. Morrison, in obvious reference to Russia's new treaty of friendship and non-aggression with Yugoslavia.

The authoritative Press Association said that London was in close touch with the United States concerning the new situation in the Balkans, adding:

"America has made clear that she will help the victims of Axis aggression and there may be some official restatement of her attitude from Washington before long."

British and American representatives in recent talks were understood to have anticipated the German invasion of Yugoslavia and Greece and to have dealt with the co-ordination of furnishing them supplies from overseas.

Informed British sources said that the extent of the initial force in Greece was agreed upon by the Greek and British general staffs and did not represent the full assistance contemplated.

### SECOND WORLD WAR NOW FLAMES IN THE BALKANS

BY ANNE O'HARE MCCORMICK

In the gray dawn of Holy Week, three days before the anniversary of the invasion of Norway and Denmark, the Germans launched their third great land offensive. But there are important differences between this drive and the thrusts into Poland and the Low Countries. This time there is no surprise. Athens and Belgrade have not slept for many nights, expecting the blow to fall from one

hour to the next. They are as ready as they can be, and calm with the stoicism of nations that have made their choice and are prepared for the worst. The British have anticipated this move for weeks. They have been shipping troops in large numbers and vast quantities of supplies into Greece. Save for the insignificant brushes in Libya, they are encountering the German Army for the first time since Flanders under better circumstances than they could have hoped for before the Yugoslavs rebelled.

In his previous campaigns Hitler was fighting in the expectation of isolating Britain and thereby forcing her to surrender without a battle. Now he is fighting, in conditions he did not choose, because Britain is not isolated, because she has found a foothold and allies on the Continent of Europe. War in the Balkans writes the final Q. E. D. on his biggest miscalculation.

It is too much to say that the British have chosen the time and the place for this contest. As yet they can hardly have landed enough men and machines to match the fresh striking force of the German armies unemployed since last June. But they have challenged Hitler on his own ground the last place he would choose to fight. The language of his order to his troops reveals him in a savage temper, and the insolent cynicism of Ribbentrop's "explanation"—the British have invaded again!—shows clearly that the hand of Berlin has been forced. They strike because they are forced to strike. A rebellion has broken out in Europe and it must be crushed before it spreads.

How the Yugoslavs and the Greeks will stand up to the might of Germany we cannot know on the first day of their terrible test. They are ferocious fighters, of a type the well-drilled and regimented soldiers of the Wehrmacht have not met in this war. Nor do the invaders know the hiding places and pitfalls in the wildest mountain land in Europe, a battleground out of Dante's Inferno where the defenders can deploy in the dark. Railroads and paved roads are few and overburdened, and the German advance depends on transport. How will they solve this problem when even in the Reich itself, after eight years of furious effort to build an adequate network of military supply lines, transport is still the weakest link in the chain?

In this terrain the Germans, too, are up against tests they have not yet experienced. They face new uncertainties. Hitler and Ribbentrop are careful not to mention the United States in their war declarations but the press campaign in Germany and Italy demonstrates their angry awareness of the increasingly active part played by American in the war. That is the main reason they are in a hurry.

We do not know how much our promise of support influenced the resistance of the Yugoslavs, or whether we can make good on our promises in time. We do not know whether Russia's declaration of friendship for Yugoslavia—belatedly published, as usual—had any influence. Is it to be interpreted as another cautious step in the retreat from the Nazi-Soviet pact, or another move to encourage everybody to get into the war except the Soviet Union?

These questions did not worry Hitler's vanguards when they pounded northward and westward. Then Russia was safe, the American threat was far in the background, the fifth columnists prepared the way and the supply bases were close behind. The British were alone, there was no focus of resistance, and the Nazi strategists chose the weapons, the time and the battleground. Now, although they have invaded every country on the Continent but five, the risks of invasion are far greater. For this march



is made over the bodies of Hungary, Rumania and Bulgaria, and proves that their surrenders and concessions have availed them nothing. They gave up liberty for peace and now they have war. The costly and unrelenting manoeuvres of Hitler himself to keep the Balkans quietly at work, feeding his armies while they fought elsewhere, have come to naught. Again, as in the last war, the Balkans have become a battlefield against the will of all concerned. For Hitler the present invasion marks the failure of his surest plan.

For all of us the immediate effect of the latest battle is to deepen the sense that the steed of the Man on Horseback is out of even his own control and events are rushing of their own momentum toward their long-unforeseen but predestined end. But of one thing we can be sure. Hitler may not have been ready to take Yugoslavia by force, but he has been preparing for months to move on Greece, and now that he has struck, he will wage a thoroughly organized and murderous war. No doubt he will again overcome obstacles regarded as insurmountable by his opponents. He is preceded by the legend of victory and accompanied by the reality of terror. His war is all-out war, and between his conception and realization of total effort and our idea of all-out aid stretches the wide and perilous gulf between half-time and full-time, the part and the whole.

#### HITLER'S ORDER OF THE DAY

*Adolf Hitler's declaration that Germany was at war with Yugoslavia was read over the Berlin radio early today by Propaganda Minister Joseph Goebbels. As heard by the National Broadcasting Company's station in New York and translated from the German, it read of the East.*

Berlin, April 6, 1941

In the name of the Fuehrer, Adolf Hitler, I am reading the following order of the day to the German Army Soldiers of the Southeast Front

Since early this morning the German people are at war with the Belgrade government of intrigue. We shall only lay down arms when this band of ruffians has been definitely and most emphatically eliminated, and the last Briton has left this part of the European Continent, and that these misled people realize that they must thank Britain for this situation, they must thank England, the greatest warmonger of all time.

The German people can enter into this new struggle with the inner satisfaction that its leaders have done nothing to bring about a peaceful settlement.

We pray to God that He may lead our soldiers on the path and bless them as hitherto.

In accordance with the policy of letting others fight for her, as she did in the case of Poland, Britain again tried to involve Germany in the struggle in which Britain hoped that she would finish off the German people once and for all, to win the war, and if possible to destroy the entire German Army.

In a few weeks long ago the German soldiers on the Eastern Front, Poland, swept aside this instrument of British policy. On April 9, 1940, Britain again attempted to reach its goal by a thrust on the German north flank, the thrust at Norway.

In an unforgettable struggle the German soldiers in Norway eliminated the British within a period of a few weeks.

What the world did not deem possible the German people have achieved. Again, only a few weeks later,

Churchill thought the moment right to make a renewed thrust through the British Allies, France and Belgium, into the German region of the Ruhr. The victorious hour of our soldiers on the West Front began.

It is already war history how the German Armies defeated the legions of capitalism and plutocracy. After forty-five days this campaign in the West was equally and emphatically terminated.

Then Churchill concentrated the strength of his Empire against our ally, Italy, in Africa. Now the danger has also been banned from the African theater of the war through the cooperation of Italian and German units.

The new aim of the British warmongers now consists of the realization of a plan that they had already hatched at the outbreak of the war and only postponed because of the gigantic victories of the German Army. The memory of the landing of British troops at Salonika in the course of the first world war also caught little Greece in the spider web of British intrigue.

I have repeatedly warned of the attempt by the British to land troops in Southeastern Europe, and I have said that this constitutes a threat to the German Reich. Unfortunately this warning went unheeded by the Yugoslav nation. I have further tried, always with the same patience, to convince Yugoslav statesmen of the absolute necessity for their cooperation with the German Reich for restoration of lasting peace and order within Yugoslavia.

After long effort we finally succeeded in securing the cooperation of Yugoslavia by its adherence to the tripartite pact without having demanded anything whatsoever of the Yugoslav nation except that it take its part in the reconstruction of a new order in Europe.

At this point the criminal usurpers of the new Belgrade government took the power of the State unto themselves, which is a result of being in the pay of Churchill and Britain. As in the case of Poland, this new Belgrade government has mobilized decrepit and old people into their inner Cabinet. Under these circumstances I was forced immediately to recall the German national colony within Yugoslav territory.

Members and officers of the German Embassy, employees of our consulates in Yugoslavia, were daily being subjected to the most humiliating attacks. The German schools, exactly as in Poland, were laid in ruins by bandits. Innumerable German nationals were kidnapped and attacked by Yugoslavs and some even were killed.

In addition, Yugoslavia for weeks has planned a general mobilization of its army in great secrecy. This is the answer to my eight-year-long effort to bring about closer cooperation and friendship with the Yugoslav people, a task that I have pursued most fastidiously.

When British divisions were landed in Greece, just as in World War days, the Serbs thought the time was ripe for taking advantage of the situation for new assassinations against Germany and her allies.

Soldiers of the Southeast Front: Now your zero hour has arrived. You will now take the interests of the German Reich under your protection as your comrades did a year ago in Norway and on the West Front. You will do just as well on the Southeast Front.

In doing this, your duty, you will not be less courageous than the men of those German divisions who in 1915, on the same Balkan soil, fought so victoriously. You will be humane only in those places where the enemy is humane toward you. Where the enemy con-

fronts you with utter brutality you will beat them back with the same weapon

The fight on Greek soil is not a battle against the Greek people, but against that archenemy, England, which is again trying to extend the war far into the Southeast Balkans, the same as he tried far in the north last year. For this reason, on this very spot in the Balkans we shall fight shoulder to shoulder with our ally until the last Briton has found his Dunkerque in Greece

If any Greeks support this British course, then those Greeks will fall at the same time as the British.

When the German soldier shall have proved himself, shall have proved that he is capable of beating the British in the Balkans, in the midst of snow and mountains, then also he will have proved that he can beat the British in the heat of the desert in Africa

However, we will pursue no other ultimate aim than to win freedom for our German people and to secure a living-space for the German family.

The prayers and thoughts, the very life of all Germans, are again in the heart of every German soldier.

Berlin, April 6, 1941

ADOLF HITLER,  
*Commander in Chief.*

### GERMANY MARCHES

In the early hours of Palm Sunday morning, praying God "to lead the German armies on their path," Adolf Hitler struck at two more small nations that wanted only to live their own lives in peace and freedom. The attack was begun in characteristic German fashion, with massed air assaults by Stuka bombers on a capital which had previously been declared an open city. It was followed, as all German attacks are followed, by an equally characteristic performance to which the foreign correspondents in Berlin were summoned, in order that they might hear from those in high authority how blameless is the German case, how shamefully the little German Reich had been bullied by big Yugoslavia and giant Greece, how noble the German nation felt, on this Palm Sunday morning, because "its leaders had done everything to bring about a peaceful settlement."

Only in one narrow sense, touching the depths of human cynicism, does this explanation of Germany's action and this apologia for an attempt to overrun two more small nations tally with facts so plainly written on the record that no one can mistake them. Doubtless Hitler would have preferred to have Yugoslavia and Greece surrender abjectly and become creatures of his will, rather than be forced to the effort of imposing his will upon them. He did not want to fight in the Balkans unless he had to. If Yugoslavia and Greece had surrendered, he would willingly have spared their people. After all, he had a use for them. He wanted slaves. Every step he took in the Balkans, from the seizure of Austria to the negotiations with Regent Paul of Yugoslavia, was intended to avoid a waste of his own strength. He preferred conquest by corruption, by treachery, by the methods of the spy and the assassin, to conquest under arms.

He liked to take little countries piecemeal—Austria, which weakened the Czech flank; Hungary, which exposed Rumania; Rumania, which left Bulgaria vulnerable. He had so little doubt that Yugoslavia itself would fall in the same fashion that he sold her, even after he made war on Poland, quantities of arms. He despised Musso-

lini, but counted on Mussolini to hem in the Serbs if they proved obstinate. He wanted every one in the Balkans to listen to reason—his kind of reason. Many people did, some because they were hypnotized, some because they were frightened, some, perhaps, just because they were tired.

In Yugoslavia he has now encountered a people who are not hypnotized, not tired and certainly not frightened. He has a war there which he tried to avoid. He may believe that he can win it but still he did not care for it. It will cost him men, ammunition, equipment, gasoline—all of which are precious to him. To have to fight that war at all is for him a defeat.

No one can safely predict how far or how fast he will go when he reaches the rugged country where the Yugoslavs intend to make their fight. What is sure is that when he was compelled to send his army to enforce his will the charm of the easy Hitler successes over little nations was broken forever. The Continent of Europe has been saying yes to Hitler for half a decade. It is a tremendous event when a part of it, not rich, not thickly populated, not powerful, but possessing a passionate patriotism and an unconquerable soul, says no.

Hitler met moral defeat when the British not only resisted but struck back. He has now met moral defeat again. In the East, as in the West, he has come face to face with a tough-fibered people who will say yes to death before they will say it to tyranny. In paying them the tribute of our unbounded admiration, let us not forget that their cause is our own. This is our war as well as theirs. Our lease-lend act, overwhelmingly approved by Congress, was deliberately intended to provoke precisely such opposition to Hitler as the people of Yugoslavia have now dared to offer. Under this act, our President has promised aid. Our Minister to Belgrade has given pledges in our name. We have a covenant with this small people in the Balkans, a covenant based upon good faith. Let us resolve to keep it.

(Editorial)

### YUGOSLAVS CAPTURE SCUTARI IN ALBANIA

**Yugoslav Drive On—Italians Resist In Hills Northeast of Scutari—Nazi Aid Rushed—Fascisti Abandon Zara—Attack From Bulgaria on Nish Reported Repulsed—Hungary Said to Have Been Invaded.**

BY DANIEL T. BRIGHAM

BERNE, Switzerland, April 7—Yugoslav troops of the Fifth and Third Armies at dawn this morning launched an attack after heavy artillery preparations and after several hours of fierce fighting succeeded in occupying Scutari, Albania, according to the first authentic information reaching this capital from Yugoslavia since 5:30 A. M. yesterday.

The attack on Scutari was launched from Podgorica, in Montenegro

Pressed hard by troops under General Vladimir Cukavatch of the Fifth Army, who is at present in charge of Albanian operations, the Italians are reported to be putting up fierce resistance in the hills northeast of the abandoned town, while German Tyrolean units, recently arrived in Albania, are being rushed from the Southwest to try to stem the tide.

At other points on the Eastern Albanian frontier, notably on the Plain of Kosovo other advances were made, though their extent is not yet authentically given.



Elsewhere along the Dalmation coast Zara was abandoned after a brief scuffle with the Italian rear guard protecting the evacuation of the Italian garrisons there. Much material is reported to have been left behind.

In the north, at Susak, brief artillery duels and some patrol encounters are reported, but no major clash up to 5 o'clock this afternoon.

#### *British Naval Units Active*

At Ragusa, Spalato and Biograd [south of Zara] British naval activities covering the arrival of British troops were so intensive the Italians were forced to withdraw some of their already reduced fleet in an attempt to protect their own evacuation from Zara.

Meanwhile, from inside the country comes the first authentic reports that despite the immense losses claimed to have been inflicted by the Germans and Italians on the Yugoslav Air Force, it has suffered surprisingly few losses in either pilots or machines, in view of the extent of its offensive and defensive operations. No figures, however, were given.

The sharp attacks reported yesterday as being aimed at Nish from Bulgaria have been repulsed without loss of position. Sharp counter-attacks inflicted heavy losses on the Germans and it is reported some prisoners were taken.

The nature of these attacks leads the Yugoslav High Command to the conclusion that they were intended as diversions while further preparations were made in the neighborhood of Keustendil for a drive on Skoplje down the Kriva River. It was down this valley that the Bulgars attacked the Serbs in the Second Balkan War with considerable, if temporary, success.

The object of such an attack would be to try to prevent the junction of Greek and Yugoslav forces. United, with open lines of communication, the Allied armies would definitely menace any further operations by the Germans in Southwest Bulgaria. Separated, with a junction of the German and Italian forces effected, the end of Greek campaign would be but a matter of a few weeks at the outside.

For the moment, first indications show this German attempt as doomed to failure.

#### **HUNGARY REPORTED INVADED**

LONDON, Tuesday, April 8 (UP)—Yugoslav forces were reported early today by the Turkish radio to have invaded both Hungary and Northern Albania in swift counter-offensives against Germany and Italy.

Striking at the Italian Army in Albania, the Yugoslavs were said to have thrust five miles across the frontier and captured the town of Scutari, twenty miles inland from the Adriatic coast.

In the North, it was reported without confirmation elsewhere, Yugoslav troops are driving toward Szeged, Hungary along the Tisza River, where the Yugoslav, Hungarian and Rumanian frontiers meet. Szeged is about 100 miles directly north of Belgrade.

The German radio, heard by the National Broadcasting Company last night, apparently confirmed Turkish radio reports that the Yugoslav Army had invaded Hungary. The German radio said that "very strong R. A. F. support is enabling the Yugoslavs to maintain their hold on a very small section of Hungarian territory but a number of R. A. F.

fighters and bombers were brought down over this area by German anti-aircraft fire."]

The Yugoslav Army, striking into Albania in a strong offensive after heavy artillery preparation, was said to be attempting to drive the Fascist forces into a huge trap between the Greek and Yugoslav Armies and British naval forces along the Adriatic coast.

The Italian forces in Albania, estimated at about 350,000, are dependent upon uncertain air and sea communications across the Adriatic where British submarines and presumably other naval forces are operating.

#### *Tanks Reported Captured*

A French language broadcast of the British Broadcasting Corporation said last night that "another twelve heavy German tanks have been captured by the Yugoslavs and their crews taken prisoner."

The broadcast heard here by the National Broadcasting Company did not locate the sector, but said the tanks were taken in repulsing a heavy attack on Yugoslav intrenchments.

"A large number of Germans have been taken prisoner," the broadcaster said. He added that another German attack in an adjoining sector had been repulsed with "appalling" losses to the Germans.

#### **NAZIS CLAIM GAINS**

**Operations "Progressing According to Plan," the High Command Says—Resistance Held Strong—Germans Told Not to Expect Quick Victory—102 Planes Are Reported Destroyed.**

BERNE, Switzerland, April 7—Though bitter fighting is reported from all sectors of the southeast front, the German High Command today reported that the operations of its forces were "progressing according to plan." A German radio bulletin tonight stated that the German attack had penetrated enemy territory to a maximum depth of about twenty-five miles.

In the Struma Valley in Greece, according to the German report, the German forces are still advancing "despite strong resistance on the part of the enemy." The German troops, it is indicated, are pressing their attack with all available means, strongly supported by operations of the German Air Force.

German communiqués still give no clear picture of the operation plan and the Struma Valley today was still the only point of invasion mentioned by the radio or news service bulletins. The German reports cover the "southeast front" in its entirety and the extent of this front is indicated only by the term "Serbo-Greek front" used occasionally in the Nazi report.

It is impossible as yet, therefore, to judge from the German bulletins the chief directions of the attack. Enemy frontier fortifications have been overrun and captured, the Germans claim, though only at the cost of bitter fighting. German troops are described as having taken these first defense lines in the face of strong and desperate resistance by the defenders.

#### *Belgrade Again Bombed*

The German air offensive on Yugoslav communications centers, airports and troop concentrations continued throughout the day, according to the German radio. Belgrade experienced its fourth attack last night, it is claimed, and the fifth some time today.

Fires are still raging throughout the Yugoslav capital, the German bulletins assert, and the damage is said to be very heavy. Traffic and communications centers in Belgrade, it is stated, have been completely demolished.

According to reviews of the German press, which have reached Berne, the Germans are discouraging expectations of quick and easy successes in the Balkan campaign. The Army High Command, for one thing, is maintaining a strict reserve in its communiqués, while the press editorials unanimously point out the difficulties facing the German forces because of the rough terrain which can be stubbornly defended, even by small forces.

German quarters are cited here as having said that their armed forces are engaged in what may well be "the most difficult operation of the war."

The German Air Force, however, has further successes to report and the German radio announces that during yesterday's operations ninety-eight enemy planes were shot down or destroyed. Thirty-five of these are stated to have been brought down in aerial combat and fifty-four destroyed on the ground. Nine more grounded planes are said to have been badly damaged.

German air losses are estimated at seven planes.

#### *Nazis Claim Air Victory*

The official German news agency tonight reports the first engagement between German planes and R. A. F. machines on the Balkan front. It is stated that four British bombers were brought down somewhere over Yugoslavia, bringing the total of enemy air force losses, according to German estimates, to 102 machines.

German reports admit there were air raids on a few points in Styria and in Hungary. The damage inflicted is reported to have been "slight."

Latest German reports state that among the objectives attacked by the air force today were Mostar and Ljubljana, where troop concentrations and artillery emplacements are reported to have been bombed and machine-gunned. Airports were bombed at Podgorica, Kumbur, Mostar and Sarajevo, the German news agency claims.

The railway junction of Zidani-Most, was bombed yesterday and today, it is claimed further, and extensively damaged. Other traffic centers were likewise attacked in a large-scale attempt to paralyze Yugoslav railway communications.

#### **BOMBERS SUPPORT ARMIES**

BERLIN, April 7 (AP)—The German Balkan armies reported general advances tonight against both the Yugoslavs and Greeks, whose fortified points were declared to have been broken in sharp assaults, but the public was warned not to expect the quick and sensational successes of the French campaign.

German bombers supported the advance, it was stated, by attacks on airports and transport facilities. "Important stretches" of railway were reported destroyed by direct hits in Yugoslavia, where there are comparatively few through lines.

The High Command itself had announced that "stubborn resistance" was being met. The press and radio declared that in the difficult terrain of Serbia lay Britain's only hope. Afternoon papers published a photograph to illustrate the mountain passes and the wild gorges which "offer to our advancing troops many difficulties."

"Mountain warfare," observed the authoritative commentary *Dienst aus Deutschland*, "is no Blitzkrieg."

"Operations corresponded to German expectations," it added. "Since the German movements still are in a stage of development, authorized military sources at present divulge only scant details regarding the direction and the space gained."

The most concrete information obtained was that the Germans were marching southward in the Struma valley and westward into South Serbia.

An authorized source said Rumania, Bulgaria and Hungary had been the victims of international violations by Yugoslavia. A spokesman read a Budapest dispatch stating that two Yugoslav planes had dropped six bombs this morning on the Pecs, Hungary, airport and both were shot down. Some persons were reported injured.

The reticence concerning German Army and diplomatic movements was offset by the readiness of the High Command to reveal what Germany's powerful air force was doing in Yugoslavia. These forces, it appeared, are dumping loads of dynamite on airports, hangars, military barracks, railway and other communications.

The official German news agency declared that the whole of Yugoslavia's transport and communications system had been substantially smashed—"fatally" disrupted—by German bombers.

Yugoslav and Greek tactics during the day, *Dienst aus Deutschland* reported, were not restricted to defense, but extended over Bulgarian, Rumanian and Hungarian territory.

"Several air attacks were directed against these areas," it was added, "and at one point [from Yugoslavia into Bulgaria] warlike acts were committed by shooting from land. The military violation of these countries was observed most carefully in Berlin and of course also by the governments directly concerned."

#### **SABOTAGE CAN HURT AXIS IN YUGOSLAVIA**

**Raw Materials Vital to Reich—Italy Relies on Trade.**

LONDON, April 7—Underlying the battlefield there is another struggle going on in Yugoslavia which the British are watching hopefully. Germany stands to lose more economically than she will gain from invasion if the Yugoslavs are quick enough and good enough to blow up their rich mines and rail lines.

They are in a position to block the Danube on which 200,000 tons of oil a month are hauled to Germany from Rumania. The famous river flows through the Iron Gate gorge, controlled by Yugoslavia.

The Yugoslavs might cut off one-third of the German copper supply, by destroying the Bor mines. This, however, is more difficult since they are near the Rumanian frontier and are under French and German management.

The list goes on to include valued bauxite, of which Germany has earmarked 400,000 tons this year. Included are also chrome, antimony, lead, maize, fats, coal and timber.

Yugoslavia straddles one of the three main railroads between Germany and the East.

Vigorous sabotage of industries and utilities would hurt Italy even more than Germany, according to British economists. Italy has the closest trade ties with the power across the Adriatic.

## YUGOSLAVS PREPARE TO USE SHIPS HERE

### Envoy Confers With British Shipping Officials.

Constantin Fotitch, Yugoslav Minister to the United States, disclosed yesterday that he had conferred with Yugoslav ship owners and British shipping officials here on the use of his country's vessels now in American ports. Mr. Fotitch, who came here from Washington Sunday, was interviewed at his suite in the Hotel Ritz-Carlton.

Although he declined to discuss details, Mr. Fotitch said "there will be the closest collaboration with British and American officials for the purpose of making the most efficient use of available shipping."

He estimated that eighteen to twenty ships flying the Yugoslav flag were in United States ports now, or on their way to this country. The ships, he said, totaled 80,000 to 100,000 tons.

He added that it was agreed that the ships would remain in the United States ports "until we look over the situation and decide upon the most efficient manner for using them."

The only ship flying the Yugoslav flag at present in this port is the 1,806-ton tanker Petar.

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## GERMANS CHARGE U. S. EGGED ON YUGOSLAVS

### Press Places Chief Blame on Us for Balkan Phase of War.

BERLIN, April 7 (UP)—The Hamburger Fremdenblatt today sharply attacked United States "intervention" in Yugoslavia and charged that the United States "almost more than England" was responsible for the war in the Balkans.

"The United States received news of Balkan events with her usual attacks on the Greater German Reich's policy," said the newspaper.

Colonel William J. Donovan's recent visit to Belgrade and Under-Secretary of State Sumner Welles's statement approving the Yugoslav coup were described as "well-known symptoms of American joint responsibility and the incendiaryism that caused the war in the Balkans."

Secretary of State Cordell Hull's statement on the invasion of Yugoslavia "teems with misrepresentations," the newspaper charged.

It described the Balkan hostilities as "a section of tremendous offensive operations in which Britain, in a leading position in the Eastern Mediterranean, must defend her very existence."

With the British forces divided between the Balkans and North Africa, Britain now faces a life-and-death struggle for the Suez Canal, said the Fremdenblatt.

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BERLIN, April 7 (AP)—Propaganda Minister Joseph Goebbels' newspaper, the Angriff, in a front-page cartoon today implied that the United States had a hand in alleged mistreatment of "Volksdeutsche" in Yugoslavia.

The drawing showed a peasant woman with a shawl over her head, a baby in her arms and a bundle at her feet, held at bay by a ferocious, toothy dog marked "Serbia." Above the dog and urging him on was a figure of Uncle Sam with stars and stripes on his coat sleeve.

## YUGOSLAV DIPLOMATS DEPART FROM BERLIN

### Greeks' Whereabouts Unrevealed—"White Book" Issued.

BERNE, Switzerland, April 7—The curtain was rung down today on the diplomatic drama that led to this Balkan war. At 10 o'clock this morning the members of the Yugoslav Legation departed from Berlin by special train, thus formally severing diplomatic ties that had joined them with the Reich.

In the archives of the Foreign Office still reposed the documents of the Tripartite Pact with the signatures of the former Yugoslav Premier and Foreign Minister, Dragisa Cvetkovitch and Alexander Cincar-Markovitch, which to this day have not yet been renounced by Premier Dusan Simovitch's government.

By a special accord the Yugoslav journalists in Berlin were also permitted to leave the capital on the same train.

The departure of the diplomatic representatives of Greece has not yet been announced by the German radio. It was said yesterday, however, that Argentina had undertaken to represent Greek interests in Germany, while Sweden will represent the Reich in Athens. It was announced that the Yugoslav Government had asked Switzerland to represent Yugoslav interests in Germany and that Germany had asked Switzerland to protect German interests in Yugoslavia.

The German Foreign Office, according to a radio bulletin, has published a White Book purporting to prove the war guilt of Yugoslavia and Greece. This publication furnishes a background for the German notes delivered to the Yugoslav and Greek Governments on the morning of the outbreak of war, which accused the two countries of having maintained an "unneutral" attitude and of having connived with the British for the invasion of the Balkans by Empire forces.

The White Book consists, for the most part, of nine documents allegedly found in diplomatic luggage captured last Summer at La Charité in France. It was said at the time that they were chiefly military documents from the files of the French General Staff. Today they are being issued, as were the alleged files of the Polish Foreign Office last April, to justify German invasion in Southeastern Europe.

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## FAITH IN BRITAIN

The Greeks claim that their infantry has wrecked the tanks of the vanguard of a panzer division that tried to storm the Struma Pass. They boast that they are holding the invaders at the wild gorge where the river road to the Aegean narrows between towering mountain walls. They have a right to boast; without vainglory they are entitled to link the defense of this pass on the Bulgarian border with the defense of the pass of Thermopylae. Now doubly invaded, the first small nation to be attacked by the second Axis Power because she has routed the first, Greece won the first clear victory over aggression in this war, and that primacy cannot be taken away from her. Whatever happens now, though the last Macedonian pass is breached and Hitler's mechanical men clank on to Salonika, the Greeks cannot be vanquished. If they remember Thermopylae as they stand on the Struma, it is because they have seen many Hitlers come and go while they remain. Here is a small people facing great odds, but a people that has watched history write the epitaphs of all its conquerors.

Influenced by the example of the Greeks, impelled by the same faith, the Yugoslavs have thrown in their lot with their courageous neighbors. It is too soon yet to estimate how they are making out against the many-pronged thrust of the Nazis. Apparently the invading armies are moving rapidly over the plains, as was expected. As usual, they are attempting to scatter resistance before they meet it by heavy and widespread bombing from the air. The Yugoslavs, on their side, are launching the expected drive on Albania and are reported to have captured Scutari. To push the Italians out of the peninsula and out of the war must be the first aim of the British and their allies. The Balkan war promises to be a long struggle, marked by breaks and extensions beyond the calculations of the combatants, but in the initial stage it will be surprising if the offensive force of all three nations is not concentrated in the assault on Italy.

The full sum and size of Yugoslavia's bet on Britain begins to be appreciated only as the Nazi war machine tramples over her territory. What is happening now is what the Belgrade Government faced as it took its fateful decision. Equally it must have faced the terrible punishment that would be meted out to the country in the event of a German victory. As an act of faith in the final success of Britain, no event of the war, including our own policy of aid to the limit, is quite so significant as the action of this Balkan state in opening her fields to invasion and her cities to destruction. Yugoslavia has wagered her national life and the lives of her citizens on the belief that the British must win in the end.

(Editorial)

## DRIVE ACROSS SOUTH YUGOSLAVIA TO SKOPLJE

**Nazis Push West—Report Capture of Vital Serbian Rail Center and Fall of Nish—Stukas Aid In Attack—Defense Pounded Hard by Planes—Belgrade Advance Continues.**

BY C. BROOKS PETERS

BERLIN, April 8—The first positive indications of the immediate tactical implications of Germany's drive on the Southeastern Front were disclosed in Berlin today, when it was reported that advanced units of the Reich's forces had traversed more than half the distance across Yugoslavia from Bulgaria to Albania.

The objective of this push appears obviously to be the joining of forces with the Italian ally in Albania, thus cutting all lines of land communication between the Yugoslav forces and the latter's allies in Greece.

Spearheads of German forces which apparently entered Yugoslavia through the Kriva Pass on the southern Bulgarian-Yugoslav frontier were reported to have taken Skoplje. That city is more than fifty miles from the Bulgarian border and half way to Albania. If the practice followed by the Germans in previous campaigns is to be maintained, moreover, announcement of the capture of Skoplje means that the German advance units are already beyond that city on their westward march.

[German sources in Budapest reported that Nazi divisions had also cut the main Yugoslav railroad at Nish, between Skoplje and Belgrade and almost as far from the Bulgarian border as Skoplje, according to The United Press.]

## Advance on Belgrade Indicated

Other German forces, meanwhile, are believed to be advancing on Belgrade. The progress, it is suggested, continues satisfactorily.

A third German push began Sunday morning along the Austrian-Yugoslav frontier. How far it has progressed is not known, but it appears to have as its immediate objective Zagreb, the Croat capital.

In Greece, German troops are meeting what is termed here "heroic" resistance from their Greek foe. The German forces are believed to have broken through Greek fortifications in the Struma Valley on the Bulgarian border in fierce fighting yesterday. How deeply they have penetrated into Greek territory in this sector is not known, but the topography is acknowledged to be enormously difficult.

Regarding the land fighting on all sectors the German High Command's communiqué declared merely that in spite of many difficulties caused by the terrain and the destruction of roads, attacks on both the Serbian and Greek fronts were successful against tenacious resistance. No mention is made of Skoplje.

With the reported taking of that city, the Germans appear to have dealt the Yugoslavs a serious blow, for the town of some 70,000 inhabitants in South Serbia is the main junction for the lines of communications between Bosnia and Serbia and the southeast—that is, Greece and Salonika. The largest troop barracks in South Serbia are also located in Skoplje, which commands an entrance to the important Vardar Valley, running south-eastward to Salonika.

Should the German forces succeed in continuing their advance westward or southwestward, they will meet their Italian allies in Albania and thus cut the Greek forces off from the major portion of the Yugoslav Army.

The Germans declare that in no sector have they yet encountered British troops on the ground. This, they add, is most extraordinary because the British brought the Yugoslavs and Greeks into their present difficult situation and the latter have found themselves for days in most heavy engagements.

"German quarters consider the supposition not unfounded," comments the semi-official *Dienst aus Deutschland*, "that the English leadership at the present initiatory stages of the Southeast European campaign is taking the precaution of not losing contact with a suitable harbor for retreat."

The German High Command reports that the German air force carried out large-scale assignments in the south-east yesterday. In the territory about Skoplje, for example, German planes bombed and were said to have machine-gunned infantry and truck columns. The Stukas, it is believed, participated actively in these attacks.

## Bombing of Belgrade

Despite inclement weather, the High Command continues, German planes in rolling waves continued their bombing of military objectives in the "fortress," Belgrade. The main railway station with its auxiliary appointments is said again to have been hit, and new fires of large dimensions started.

Airfields in Yugoslavia, the High Command declared, were attacked by dive bombers and destroyers. Thirty-two planes were destroyed on the ground and two others damaged, the Germans report. In the Sava sector—in the northeastern tip of Yugoslavia—the High Command adds, its bombers destroyed railroad bridges, railroad

stations and tracks and directly hit transports and gasoline tank trains

German pursuit ships are said to have shot down twenty Allied planes, while one Bristol-Blenheim bomber is reported to have been forced to land in Austria

The official news agency, D. N. B., declared that all important Yugoslav air fields have been systematically bombed by German planes. In view of the limited strength of the Yugoslav Air Force, moreover, D. N. B. adds, and the fact that Yugoslavia has no airplane industries of her own but must import all her planes, a significant weakening of her entire strength has already been effected

The Germans say they have taken considerable quantities of booty and prisoners, medium and heavy artillery, motorized batteries and large quantities of infantry ammunition.

German political quarters express the opinion that the military activities carried on during the last few days have led to "considerably more significant results" than have yet been disclosed by the German High Command. In modern warfare, they add, the enemy's permanent line of border fortifications must first be broken through at all points before the "war of movement adapted to the particular terrain" can earnestly begin

#### FLAME THROWERS LEAD WAY

BERLIN, April 8 (UP)—Flame-throwing and mountain-climbing German shock troops were reported tonight to have stabbed deeper into Southern Yugoslavia, although rumors that Skoplje had fallen lacked authoritative substantiation. Other reports were that this key city of the Vardar Valley had been attacked from all sides.

Informed sources admitted that so swift a German advance seemed improbable, and saw the possibility that the reports had arisen from accounts of severe aerial attacks on the city

The first report of the drive into Yugoslavia from Bulgaria came from a soldier-reporter, who said the German armored forces had toiled laboriously across the Rhodope Mountains and crossed the Bulgarian frontier. The attack took the Yugoslavs by surprise, he said, because they had not expected the Germans to undertake the transit of such difficult terrain

Alpine troops with machine guns and light artillery carried on muleback were said to have crossed the mountains, while motor-cycle units toiled precariously through almost pathless heights.

#### BELGRADE CALLED "DESTROYED"

ZURICH, Wednesday, April 9 (UP)—Belgrade has been "completely destroyed," along with several other Yugoslav railroad centers, the German radio announced at midnight in reporting a "steady advance" of Nazi forces into Yugoslavia and Greece.

In addition to completely destroying the several important railroad centers, including Belgrade, the radio said that traffic on Yugoslavia's main transport lines had been blocked by bombings.

In a single day, the Berlin radio asserted, the Germans shot down or destroyed on the ground ninety-eight Allied planes.

#### DANUBE TOWN REPORTED TAKEN

LONDON, April 8, (UP)—The Rome radio asserted today that the Germans had captured the Yugoslav town of Tekia, on the Danube opposite Orsova, Rumania

The position mentioned is just west of the "Iron Gate," the mountain passage of the Danube. Tekia was taken only after violent fighting, the Rome radio said.

#### BELGRADE LANDMARKS BELIEVED HIT

BUDAPEST, Hungary, April 8 (AP)—German dispatches published here today said German bombers had destroyed Belgrade's largest hotel which, it was said, was being used as general staff headquarters.

Other points declared destroyed were barracks, the National Theatre, the radio station and many important manufacturing plants

#### ROOSEVELT PROMISES KING PETER TO SPEED ALL POSSIBLE WAR HELP

**President Extols "Courageous Self-Defense" of Yugoslavs Against "Ruthless Aggression"—Hull Hears Americans Are Safe.**

WASHINGTON, April 8—President Roosevelt assured King Peter of Yugoslavia in a message today that "the United States will speedily furnish all material assistance possible in accordance with its existing statutes," and expressed his "most earnest hopes for a successful resistance to this criminal assault upon the independence and integrity of your country."

At his press conference this afternoon, however, Mr. Roosevelt explained that he was in no position to say whether American equipment would arrive in time to help Yugoslavia

The message, in its promise of material aid and its moral encouragement, followed the lines of the statement issued by Secretary of State Cordell Hull on Sunday. It also was regarded as in line with assurances of aid under the lease-lend law that are said to have been given to Yugoslavia after the former Belgrade Government had adhered to the Axis and so to have encouraged the revolt that installed King Peter and the resistance that precipitated the Nazi invasion.

The President's message follows:

April 8, 1941.

His Majesty, King Peter II,  
Belgrade, Yugoslavia

The people of the United States have been profoundly shocked by the unprovoked and ruthless aggression upon the people of Yugoslavia. The Government and people of the United States are witnessing with admiration the courageous self-defense of the Yugoslav people, which constitutes the more shining example of their traditional bravery.

As I have assured Your Majesty's Government, the United States will speedily furnish all material assistance possible in accordance with its existing statutes.

I send Your Majesty my most earnest hopes for a successful resistance to this criminal assault upon the independence and integrity of your country.

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT

The first direct word since the invasion began was received by the State Department today from Arthur Bliss Lane, United States Minister to Yugoslavia, who is following the government, which has left Belgrade. Mr. Lane reported that he and his staff were well and that so far as known no Americans had been injured.

The message was dated yesterday and was sent by a circuitous route, finally being telephoned to London and from there transmitted here. The Minister said a group of American newspaper correspondents was accompanying him. Members of his staff have remained in Belgrade.

Viscount Halifax, the British Ambassador, indorsed today the statement made yesterday by Secretary Hull indicating the belief that Russia was becoming aware of the danger of Nazi aims to the Soviet.

Lord Halifax declared Mr. Hull had phrased his comment very well in saying that Russia's signing of a new friendship pact with Yugoslavia made clear that an increasing number of nations were becoming acutely aware of the world nature of Germany's movement of conquest for the domination of peoples everywhere.

Both officials, it was apparent, are seeking to bolster Russian courage to the point that Moscow may take a stand against the Nazis, now that the Balkan campaign has broken out and Soviet interests are affected.

The British Ambassador made this comment orally as he was about to be received by Mr. Hull in company with Richard G. Casey, the Australian Minister, for the purpose of presenting Dr. Noel Hall, the new representative here of the British Ministry of Economic Warfare.

While Far Eastern questions were expected to be touched upon, Lord Halifax said that, apart from the presentation of Dr. Hall, the primary purpose of the call was to seek information on the Balkan situation. Little detailed factual information has as yet been received by the State Department on that subject.

Mr. Hull also conferred during the day with Secretary of War Henry L. Stimson and Secretary of the Navy Frank Knox, but said it was merely one of their periodic conferences for general clearing purposes and information.

#### YUGOSLAV SETBACK TOLD

ATHENS, April 8 (UP)—Yugoslav forces today fell back before a crushing German onslaught toward the Vardar valley, aimed at slicing Yugoslavia in two parts and turning the flank of Greece's Macedonian Army.

Swarming planes of the British Royal Air Force blasted at the German forces in a desperate effort to halt their drive toward the Vardar Valley and prevent the Greeks from being cut off from their Yugoslav allies should the Germans strike on only thirty-eight miles westward from Skoplje to the Albanian frontier. [The Greek radio heard in Budapest said that British land forces had invaded Bulgarian soil, presumably in the Struma valley region.]

#### RETREAT OF SERBS RELATED BY WRITER

**Civilians Fled From Belgrade Only a Few Hours Ahead of Swift Nazi Drive—Liaison Is a Major Need—Lack of Communications and Planes Added to Chaos of Yugoslavs' Fight.**

*The following delayed dispatch presents an eyewitness account of the fighting in Yugoslavia during the opening days of the hostilities*

BY C. L. SULZBERGER

ATHENS, April 8—Before attempting to give a description of what has taken place it is necessary to emphasize the Yugoslavs' immediate needs—fighter aircraft, anti-aircraft and effective signal corps equipment that can maintain liaison between various units under any conditions. Lack of this last-named requirement is the chief cause of the confusion that unquestionably prevailed in Yugoslavia when this writer crossed the Greek frontier.

For three days I have been traveling at a time schedule a few hours ahead of the Germans. I left Belgrade at 3 A. M. on Sunday, convinced that war was imminent and determined to join the Yugoslav Army on the Albanian frontier.

At 1 30 A. M., with a car packed with gasoline, tires and food, I called on the United States Minister, Arthur Bliss Lane, and Lieut. Col. Louis Fortier, his military attaché, for a farewell toast. At 3 o'clock I started off with some British diplomatic cars for South Serbia. All the cars of the British Legation and the Consular staffs were massed before the legation for a quick getaway in case the Germans moved on Belgrade from Bela Crkva, one and a half hours away on the Rumanian border.

#### *War's Tidings Begin*

I had the first news that the war had started at Kraljevo, where I stopped to mend a tire and had luncheon with Pat Page, American manager of Britain's Trepca lead and zinc mines. He told me Belgrade had been bombed for an hour early in the morning. At that moment the air-raid alarm sounded, but no planes appeared.

According to the general in command of the Ibar Division at Mitrovica, Prishtina and Koumanovo were bombed Sunday morning. He also said twenty-seven out of 200 German planes were brought down by the Yugoslavs over Belgrade. He said Skoplje had been heavily bombed.

I started off again for Skoplje, but lost the main road and unknowingly headed in the direction of the Bulgarian frontier east of Prishtina. Fortunately I was warned by Yugoslav and Albanian peasants and was able to turn back toward the highway.

Here I was arrested by a Serbian gendarme, who pointed his automatic at me nervously and shouted orders while I tried to explain my skiing costume and heavily loaded automobile.

After being held two hours I was allowed to proceed until again arrested at Stara Kachanik, where I found my British friends also in the hands of the gendarmes though they had diplomatic passports and their car had diplomatic plates.

#### *Disguised Spies Hunted*

It was explained by the commandant that a warning had been issued that a car bearing diplomatic plates and carrying German spies was traveling through South Serbia. We spent several hours there watching the army, with its wagons, horses and guns file past the minareted



village in the moonlight. Finally, we were released, but warned that every outpost on the road had been ordered to fire first on any nonmilitary car sighted, so I drove slowly through the pass, followed by the British, who had taken gendarme to do any necessary explaining.

Having had no sleep for forty-two hours, I lay down in a ditch by the roadside near Skoplje, and after an hour's nap was interrupted by rain and drove to the city in the midst of an air raid. I sheltered a while in the dungeon of an old Roman castle, then was ordered off to the local police station by a gendarme and stayed there during another air raid. I lay in a hastily dug trench with the gendarme commandant and watched the Yugoslav anti-aircraft shoot down a Messerschmitt, while gendarmes pointed rifles at the attacking planes, hoping they would come within range. They didn't.

Then I was conducted through the town to the principal police station, where I waited out another air raid and, after having my papers approved, drove on to divisional headquarters.

### *Nazi Bombing Accurate*

During my trips about Skoplje I was able to get a pretty good idea of what the Germans had been able to do from the air. Their bombing had been exceedingly accurate, although most of the bombs were of small caliber. Therefore, the damage was not permanently serious, but of a nature to disrupt all regular services.

The power station was out of order. There was neither electric light nor telephone. The radio station had ceased functioning. Army headquarters was knocked about and had been transferred. Telephone cables lay twisted in the road. Glass was piled everywhere and occasional craters testified to the effect of the bombing. Early Monday morning some of the dead, victims of Sunday's bombardment, were still lying about. The British consul told me that in the first raid about thirty persons were killed and more than a hundred wounded.

A divisional general at Skoplje told me the Yugoslavs were holding well at Kriva Palanka and had pushed through toward Juma, Bulgaria. We stood on the porch of his emergency headquarters while we ate a crust of dry bread—no food was available—and looked about for aircraft.

I started off again for Veles, little realizing that in a few hours German parachutists would pave the way to Skoplje's capture. Outside Veles I noticed great columns of smoke through my field glasses and inquired of refugees moving up the road, who told me Veles had just been heavily bombed.

### *Bomb Havoc Widespread*

On entering the town I found that both bridges across the Vardar River had been struck. One bridge was in flames and the other damaged by two bomb holes. The latter also was blocked by live wires and rubble, but I managed to get across and drive up the main street, which had been well shaken up and was covered with broken glass.

Fires were burning near the old church and we clearly saw that they were a result of incendiary bombs. A huge bomb crater had ruined the road near the barracks, but it was possible to skirt it.

Civilian refugees dressed in all sorts of clothes, ranging from pajamas to peasant costumes, streamed up the road beside lorries full of troops, apparently evacuating to the south over the Babuna Pass, which should have been im-

possible to take without a series of stiff assaults. I followed the troop trucks all the way.

Passing through Prilep and entering Bitolj, I noticed that no air raids had yet been staged there and naturally presumed the country was in no serious danger, little aware that before midnight both Skoplje and Veles would be in German hands.

Monday evening after dinner I visited the general in acting command of the Bitolj sector and told him I intended to go on to Albania Tuesday with the Yugoslav Army. He asked me to go to headquarters at 9 A. M. Tuesday so he could visa my papers.

This morning I awoke at 7, intending to go to Ochrida and Struga and thence into Albania around Lake Ochrida. I went to the garage to have my car serviced for the arduous roads. The garage was closed and the owner was not at home. I soon discovered there was neither a mechanic nor a functioning garage in town.

### *Army Flees Abruptly*

I returned to the hotel for breakfast and there saw some Greek officers of my acquaintance. At 9 I went to army headquarters and found a few minor officers and some civilians busily packing things in cases. I insisted the general must be there, but they told me he had already evacuated. Finally I returned to the almost empty hotel, convinced that something rotten was going on.

It was only then that I was able to piece the situation together from the tales of various civilian officials, which were confirmed later by officers marching along the road to Greece.

Not more than an hour after midnight the commanding general had ordered the military evacuation of Bitolj. At 8 A. M. civil evacuation—including such bureaus as the National Bank—was ordered. The chief of police was told to remain in the Grand Hotel and surrender the town.

Accompanied by a Bosniak engineer refugee, I drove into Greece around noon. Four German bombers flew overhead, but dropped nothing. There was an air of complete disbelief and bewilderment over the astonishing events.

One cannot yet begin to predict the outcome of this important and complicated campaign. Fighting is going on on so many fronts that it is hard to figure out exactly what is taking place. If the Southern Yugoslav Army can only be coordinated and communications restored, it may place the Germans in a very difficult position despite the overwhelming Nazi air superiority. But at the moment it looks as if Yugoslavia has been encircled by the Axis and she will have to fight hard to prevent a gloomy future.

## **YUGOSLAV ARMY MEETING ITS FIRST TEST; ITS STRATEGY ADAPTED TO MOUNTAIN TERRAIN**

BERNE, Switzerland, April 8—Since dawn Sunday a heroic but untried Yugoslav Army has been fiercely contesting every inch of ground, every mile of its frontiers, and tonight, aside from a confused condition prevailing in the region of the Third Army [Skoplje], is holding its own.

Divided into six Army corps, the conscript Army is at present under the orders of its Acting Commander in Chief, General Dusan Simovitch—the King is titular Commander in Chief. Most of the higher officers are Serbs, though since the ousting of the Cvetkovitch Gov-



ernment the number of Croat high officers on the General Staff has been considerably increased.

The six armies and their commanders before the opening of hostilities were based as follows:

First Army—Under General Milan Radenkovitch, was based at Novi Sad, north of Belgrade

Second Army—Under General Mironovitch—commanded by General Simovitch before he took over command of the air—is based at Sarajevo

Third Army—Under General Ilija Brasitch, and at present bearing the brunt of the German attack, was based at Skopje

Fourth Army—Mainly Croat but in large part hitherto commanded by Serbs under General Petar Wedeljko-vitch, is based at Zagreb

Fifth Army—Organized in length to collaborate with the minute fleet in the protection of the Dalmatian coast, under Divisional General Vladimir Kukavatch, is based at Mostar.

Sixth Army—The newest corps, under General Zhivko Stanislavjevitch, is based at Nish

There is, moreover, a relatively modern air fleet of some 900 planes under the direct command of General Simovitch, who has delegated this task to General Borivoje Mirovitch. Man for man and plane for plane—they are of British, French, Italian, German and Yugoslav design—it is undoubtedly one of the best air fleets in the Balkans. There being no Yugoslav airplane production, properly speaking, however, the question of replacement can be considered serious in any prolonged campaign.

Though the battle order naturally is not divulged, the peacetime disposal of the troops may give some indication of the army organization. Sixteen infantry divisions, three mountain divisions, two cavalry divisions and sixteen frontier battalions constituted the professional army, which is today spread out to form the cadres of the newly mobilized reserves.

Each division was formed of three regiments of infantry, two of artillery and the auxiliary services. The regiments consisted of three battalions and a company—four 37-millimeter pieces—of anti-tank guns. A battalion contained four companies of infantrymen, four sections of twelve light machine guns and eight heavy machine guns, as well as two .37-millimeter anti-tank guns.

The artillery regiment consisted of three groups of three batteries of heavy—105 and 155 millimeter—guns. Anti-aircraft units attached to each division consist of light, medium and heavy guns and heavy machine guns of the Skoda type.

The General Staff, for the most part French-trained, is inspired by the French plan of action, notably concentrated artillery preparation before advancing behind light motorized units. Its strategy, however, takes into account the peculiarities of the terrain to be defended and calls for the drawing out of the enemy into "valley compartments," where the effect of modern arms, notably tanks and airplanes, is considerably reduced.

The maxim of the army, however, is: "Barrages may prepare a decision; it is the assault that gains the day."

## NAZIS REPEATING TACTICS

BY HANSON W. BALDWIN

At the end of the third day of fighting in the Balkan campaign a strategic pattern, menacing in its implications for the Allies, commenced to appear out of the confusion

and censorship that still obscured the course of the struggle.

The Germans had won through to the Vardar Valley, perhaps in several thrusts. Their advance forces were near Salonika.

There was danger that considerable forces of Yugoslavs and Greeks might be cut off from the main British-Greek forces, and it was evident that the Germans were again utilizing the strategy that won the Battle of Flanders and the Battle of France, the break-through followed by encirclement.

But from the British point of view the bright side was that the Germans apparently had lost rather heavily, particularly in Rupel Pass, and it became evident that the British, who have not yet engaged the Germans, and the main Greek force probably will not attempt seriously to hold Salonika or any area east of it, but will establish their main line of resistance west of the Vardar.

The German advances in the Balkans, coupled with the rapid Axis drive through Libya, the resistance of scattered Italian forces in East Africa, prevented the withdrawal of British forces to reinforce the Libyan command, and German bombings of Piraeus in Greece have altered the Allied picture in the Mediterranean area.

Yet it is important to remember that the main strength of the British Expeditionary Force in Greece—Australian and New Zealand divisions, an armored division and other troops—is intact, eager for a fight, and occupies strong positions across the serrated peninsula of Greece. The bulk of the Yugoslav Army, apparently a large part of it driving against the Italians in Albania, is still in being.

The German and Allied strategical plans, judging from the fragmentary reports available, seem to have developed about as follows.

The anticipated German drives in the north across the flat plains north of the Sava appear to have been deliberately delayed or withheld while German bombing planes attempted to destroy bridges, railroad lines and communications behind the Yugoslav troops assigned to defend this part of the country.

In the south, from bases in Bulgaria, a three-pronged drive seems to have been directed into Yugoslavia: from Sofia through the Dragoman Pass to Nish, which is reported in German hands; from Kustendil through mountainous country to Skopje, which also is reported in German hands, and along the Greek frontier westward along the valley of the Strumitza, gateway from the valley of the Bulgarian Struma to the Yugoslav Vardar.

The latter operation perhaps was the key to the German success. The Germans seem to have won control after fighting on a dominating 6,100-foot massif that looms at the apex of Greece, Bulgaria and Yugoslavia and dominates the Vardar and the Struma Valleys and the connecting passage of the Strumitza.

The Nazi troops apparently pushed one prong westward through the Strumesnica, forcing the Yugoslavs back and uncovering the Greek left flank. Reaching the Vardar, some of the German troops apparently turned south and pushed toward Solanika.

At the same time the Germans struggled on in the six-mile Rupel Pass. This attack, too, seems to have been timed to permit the Vardar prong to go toward Salonika so the Greek defenders of the Struma and those along the Thracian coast would be cut off from the Greek armies west of the Vardar.

The Germans have succeeded in cutting off the Greeks from Turkey, in dominating most of Grecian Thrace, as was expected, in uncovering the Greek left flank and

in threatening to encircle not only Salonika, but also considerable parts of the Greek and Yugoslav armies. They are trying the same tactics against the British by bombing the ports and supply lines behind them.

But the Germans have not yet met the main line of Allied resistance, which is west of the Vardar, and against their tired troops are arrayed the fresh Anzacs and the tall mountains and rugged ranges of the Grecian peninsula.

In Albania, where the Yugoslavs appear to have thrown in parts of two armies against the Italians—perhaps explaining some of their weakness in the Vardar valley the Yugoslav advance continued slowly.

The first triumphs appear to be German, but the battle is still young

## RED CROSS IS SEEKING FUNDS FOR YUGOSLAVIA

### Drive to Buy Vitamin Capsules for Britain Also Opened.

The New York Red Cross chapter, 315 Lexington Avenue, was authorized yesterday to receive donations for war-relief work in Yugoslavia. The authorization came from the American Red Cross headquarters in Washington, which already is purchasing urgently needed relief articles worth \$1,000,000 for shipment to Yugoslavia.

The material being assembled for shipment overseas includes ten field hospitals, 100,000 blankets, 2,000,000 surgical dressings, four portable X-ray units and other hospital equipment, sera, vaccine, 1,500,000 quinine tablets, iodine, alcohol and ether.

A campaign began yesterday in the fashion and garment trade center of the city to raise funds for sending a year's supply of vitamin capsules to 5,000 British children. The drive for \$37,500 is sponsored by the British American Ambulance Corps, 420 Lexington Avenue, and Mrs. William Loweth is chairman of eighty-two volunteer women workers.

The Free French Relief Committee, 435 Park Avenue, announced yesterday that it is collecting playing cards and games of all kinds, books, magazines, radio sets, tobacco and cigarettes to send to French colonials separated from the mother country. "To this group of functionaries and citizens," it was said, "has been added a number of refugees and volunteers. They are completely without any of the manufactured products and essentials formerly sent to them from France."

## NAZI BALANCE SHEET

One year ago this morning the Nazis violated the neutrality of Denmark and Norway. Since that historic dawn they have added these two countries, plus Holland, Belgium, Luxembourg and France, to the territory under their control by conquest; they have added Italy, ostensibly a willing ally but more and more coming to resemble a defeated victim; they have added Rumania, Hungary and Bulgaria by bloodless coercion. A total population of nearly 150,000,000 persons, largely of non-Germanic stock and non-Nazi inclinations, has thus come under their domination.

On the foundation of these successes the Nazis have erected their "New Order." From the North Cape to Sicily, from the Bay of Biscay to the front of their armies in Yugoslavia, their writ runs openly undisputed. It is an Alexandrian, a Napoleonic, victory that they have

won. But victories cannot be had for nothing, even by the Nazis. They have paid for their gains. They will pay more.

Against the population brought under their rule they have set another great population which was neutral a year ago and is neutral no longer—that of the United States. This nation is now committed to their destruction—let them write that down in their account books.

They have chosen to add to their open enemies the Greeks and the Yugoslavs, small nations of bitter fighters who do not mean to surrender. They have lost any chance they might once have had of conciliating the Turks. They have diminished the hope of effective aid from Russia. They are engaged in the very kind of war they did their utmost to avoid—battle on two fronts.

Perhaps even more important than their new open enemies are the silent and as yet unavowed enemies they have made in every country where their troops and their police have penetrated. A year ago there were sober people in neutral countries, and even in belligerent countries in Europe, who thought a compromise might be made with nazism. Now these sober people know what nazism means. It means deliberate brutality. It does not mean the ability to organize a modern state for the welfare of its inhabitants—it does not mean even the desire to do so. It means planned disorder, resting on planned corruption. The Nazis have proved themselves as helpless to create or maintain a civilization as were their barbarian ancestors who butchered the Roman Senators. They can destroy. They cannot build. With every victory, with every advance, they expose their own ineptitude for any trade but war.

The military events of the next few days and weeks are beyond prediction. One can hardly doubt that there will be more Nazi victories. But the seeds of their doom are sowed, the green shoots will ripen to the harvest. The nation which has sacrificed freedom, truth and honor for war will soon find itself incompetent even in war.

(Editorial)

## THE TEXTS OF THE DAY'S COMMUNIQUE ON THE WAR

### ITALIAN

*ROME, April 8 (AP)—The Italian High Command issued this communiqué today:*

In Albania, on the Yugoslav front, there were actions of advanced elements. On the Greek front, our troops have repulsed local attacks in the Ninth Army sector. Many prisoners were captured. Our air force dropped shrapnel bombs on enemy positions.

On April 6, planes of the German Air Corps successfully attacked air bases, munitions dumps and troop concentrations in Yugoslav territory. Three enemy planes were shot down and seventeen other planes destroyed on the ground in that action.

### YUGOSLAV

*LONDON, April 8 (AP)—A Yugoslav radio communiqué, as distributed by the British Reuter's news agency, follows:*

On all fronts the situation is in our favor.

Enemy attacks have been repulsed with the greatest vigor.

This is even admitted by the enemy wireless station.

Heavy losses have been inflicted on the enemy.

Our air force achieved special distinction in encounters with the enemy

#### GERMAN

*BERLIN, April 8 (AP)—The German High Command issued this communiqué today.*

Despite numerous terrain difficulties, and destruction of roads, the attack of German troops on the Serbian-Greek front against tough enemy resistance was effectively continued. Despite unfavorable weather, the air force yesterday made rolling attacks on military objectives and the Belgrade fortifications, dropping incendiaries and explosives.

A new conflagration resulted in buildings and other facilities of the main railway station. Stuka and destroyer unit attacks were directed against the enemy air force in Serbia. In these actions thirty-two planes were destroyed on the ground, in addition to two badly damaged.

In the Sava River region combat planes destroyed railway bridges, stations and tracks and scored direct hits on transport and fuel trains.

In the region around Ueskueb [Skoplje] our air force units bombed infantry and motorized columns and machine-gunned them.

#### FIUME REPORTED EVACUATED

*ZURICH, Switzerland, April 8 (UP)—Reliable diplomatic quarters reported tonight that the Italians had completely evacuated Fiume, which lies just across the northern Yugoslav border.*

#### ITALIAN OFFENSIVE REPORTED

*ROME, Wednesday, April 9 (AP)—Italian troops in Albania were reported today to have begun an offensive against the Greeks in an effort to join German forces pushing into Yugoslavia to the east. The official news agency Stefani said the Italians had crushed "desperate Greek attempts" to make contact with Yugoslav forces on a road along the Albanian shore of Lake Ochrida.*

*Stefania said the Greeks suffered heavy losses in yesterday's fighting. "The defeats were bloody, and prisoners filed in long lines behind our lines," the agency said.*

#### ITALIANS BATTERED ON TWO FRONTS IN ALBANIA

**Yugoslavs Gain in Albania; Alessio Is Reported Taken—Admit Great Pressure by Germans on Other Fronts, but Say Defenders Hold Generally—R. A. F. Aids in Attacks.**

BY DANIEL T. BRIGHAM

*BERNE, Switzerland, Wednesday, April 9—Pushing eastward up the Drin and southward along the Adriatic coast line, Yugoslav forces operating in Northern Albania are reported this morning to have pushed beyond the Bay San Giovanni de Medua and occupied the town of Alessio on the coast.*

Meanwhile, other forces operating from the eastern frontier of Albania and pushing westward down the Drin have made considerable advances, harassing the Italians and driving them southwestward into the wild Fand plateau.

These troops are encountering little resistance, according to the latest news contained in messages reaching this capital direct from Yugoslavia this morning.

In the southeastern corner of Yugoslav Macedonia, Serbian divisions threatened by the German pincer movement, the northern arm of which goes through at Novo Selo and the southern arm of which drove first south and then west from Petrich in Bulgaria, were forced to withdraw, allowing the Germans to turn the Doeranes Lake on the north and take the town of Doiran. From this point in the wide plains of the Vardar Valley, the Germans are in a position to threaten Salonika.

British forces of some 60,000 to 70,000 are believed to be in the region south of this point and will probably contact the Germans during the day if they push south-eastward in an attempt to cut off "Westward Thrace," and attempt to cut the Greek forces in half.

Meanwhile, from Doiran a strong mechanized German force, supported by the German air arm, has pushed along the road toward Djevdjelija in its push westward. The German progress, however, is reported to be slow and very costly.

Pushing eastward up the Drin River from Scutari, Yugoslav mountain troops continued to harass the Italians in retreat southward and southwestward from that town captured yesterday, according to a second report received here from "somewhere in Yugoslavia" yesterday. Other forces attacking from the eastern frontier of Albania succeeded in capturing nearly 100 prisoners in the neighborhood of Kukus, also on the Drin River.

Further south, troops attacking from Struga and Dibra, just north of Lake Ochrida, advanced after heavy shelling and occupied "new positions." The exact location of other offensives or their extent is not divulged.

The Germans continue to bring great pressure to bear on the forces in Southeastern Macedonia. The Yugoslavs admit some losses of positions but claim to be holding generally.

Operations in this quarter are particularly interesting, in view of the reported use of parachute troops for advance patrol and terrorization work, when compared with the motorcycle patrols in Northern France. In an attack on the neighborhood east of Skoplje—believed by military men here to have been somewhere in the neighborhood of Ishtip—German parachutists equipped with flamethrowers attacked communication lines admittedly well in advance of the German main body and succeeded in doing exactly nothing. Defense units quickly wiped out many of the attackers before they landed, while others were rounded up and captured before much damage could be done.

A communiqué issued from General Headquarters late tonight said that all attacks had been repulsed with heavy losses to the enemy and that the situation was favorable to the defenders on all fronts.

In the north, such information as was available would indicate that the Yugoslav forces were still holding their own north of Novi Sad. Heavy bombing attacks by the Germans on lines of communication had inflicted such material damage on neighboring non-military objectives, but would appear to have inflicted little damage on the Yugoslav lines.

Listing of the material seized by the Yugoslavs in Zara continued. It was reported to amount to considerably more than was at first expected.

#### *Yugoslav Planes Attack*

The Yugoslav Air Force again attacked military objectives in Hungary and Bulgaria. Only three planes were

reported to have been lost in these operations, which included attacks on Pecs, Szeged and Baja in Hungary and military concentrations in the Struma and Strumitza Valley region. In one raid on the Strumitza region a direct hit was scored on an infantry column on the march, which, because of the suddenness of the attack, did not have time to take shelter. Several trucks and much materiel were seen to have been damaged in later reconnaissance.

After a silence of more than two whole days the Belgrade radio came back on the air late this evening. Its broadcast included a description of the first air raid on the capital, its absence of reference to other bombardments leads to the conclusion that the radio station must have been evacuated with the government. Belgrade, it said, had been severely attacked early Sunday morning by German bombers that indiscriminately dropped their loads in the center of town.

There were many killed, including the Slovene Catholic party leader, Father Fran Kulovetch, whose funeral was held today in Ljubljana. In delivering the funeral oration, the government representative referred to Father Kulovetch as the "first soldier of Slovenia to have fallen in the battle for freedom."

The Ljubljana radio, which has never left the air except for brief periods during intensive aerial activity, broadcast this afternoon a proclamation by Vice Premier Vladimir Matchek calling on the Croats to remain solidly united behind the throne of King Peter. He warned them not to lose faith in their leaders, who were leading the country to victory, and called on them to be patient until "the military chiefs of the army complete the arrangements they have made" to drive "the aggressor from them."

## **YUGOSLAVS SCORE BELGRADE BOMBING**

**Excoriate Unmerciful Attacks as Without Parallel Even in Primitive Times—Scenes of Horror Cited—All Hospitals, Churches, Schools and Cultural Institutions of City Declared Destroyed.**

ATHENS, Greece, April 9 (AP)—An announcement by the Yugoslav Government today said that Belgrade, enormously damaged by German air raids, was at the mercy of German force, having been evacuated by all "military elements" since the first day of the war.

Despite this evacuation, it was added, the capital has been bombed heavily and continually and turned "into a mass of debris." The streets of Belgrade are littered with the bodies of the dead—women, children and old men," said the government's statement, which was issued through the Athens Legation.

Thirty bombs were dropped on the royal court of King Peter II, it was declared, and "horrible scenes," in which German planes were declared to have machine gunned women and children leaving their blazing homes, were reported in the statement.

"Never in the long history of this martyred city," it added, "have such cruelties been committed, even by the most primitive invaders. The devastation of this defenseless and declared open town has been executed by the aviation of a nation which claims first place among cultured peoples."

The statement went on to say that an enormous number of civilians had been killed. It added:

"All provisions of international law and humanitarian considerations have been disregarded by German aviation, which destroyed all hospitals, all churches, all schools, all cultural institutions of Belgrade."

The government declared that the first raid came last Sunday as the streets were crowded with churchgoers and said the scenes that followed "surpassed all possible imagination of horror."

ATHENS, April 9 (UP)—The Yugoslav High Command said today that the Germans again on Monday and Tuesday bombed Belgrade, which was evacuated of military objectives on the first day of the war. Kragujevac, Skoplje, Shabats and Lazarevas," the communiqué said, "also were bombed." Material losses were enormous, as were victims of the civil population."

LONDON, April 9 (UP)—The German radio reported tonight that the Yugoslav capital of Belgrade was still ablaze, after burning for four days, and that its fires are visible from the Rumanian frontier thirty-seven miles away.

The German radio reported Tuesday night that Belgrade and other important Yugoslav railroad centers had been "completely destroyed" by German bombing attacks.

## **RUSSIA PRAISES THE YUGOSLAVS AND ALLIES; NOTES HER OWN PREPARATION FOR DEFENSE**

MOSCOW, April 9—Russia paid high tribute to Yugoslavia and her allies in the Balkan war today and said that any chance of a German invasion of the British Isles had been removed for the time being.

Soviet interest in the new alignment of European fighting forces and hints of the Russian attitude regarding them were advanced through the inspired press, a mirror of government policy.

"There can be no question of an invasion of Britain," the army organ, Red Star, said. "The central burden of the war has been transferred from the west to the east."

[An Exchange Telegraph dispatch from Ankara, Turkey, to London said that a move by Russia "of a surprising nature in connection with German aggression in the Balkans" was expected.]

Perhaps indicative of a new trend of policy, the government organ Izvestia summed up the results of civilian parachute exercises through the Winter. It said that the Moscow district had 160,000 trained peasant home guards organized in 8,000 detachments covering thirty-seven administrative regions.

Coincidentally, the Osoaviakhim, the volunteer air-raid protection society, announced that more than 10,000,000 workers and peasants had been trained to work while wearing gas masks and under conditions that might be expected during air raids.

In Moscow's most forthright comment on the new turn of the war the Red Star said Germany was facing a serious enemy in Yugoslavia, a people of high morale and worthy fighting traditions bulwarked by substantial British aid.

"It is no wonder that the Berlin radio recounts the difficulties in the Yugoslav theatre, stressing operations in the Struma region," the army organ said. "The Yugoslav Army, consisting of sixteen peacetime infantry divi-

sions, can treble this number, as was done in 1914. The high morale and fighting spirit of the Yugoslav Army has been manifested repeatedly in action.

"Finally, the British command, headed by General Sir Archibald Wavell has taken serious measures to help the ally. If the British were able to gather twenty divisions in Libya, it may be supposed that they will have no fewer in the Balkans."

The publication remarked that the Yugoslav command, operating closely with the British, was not confining itself to defense measures. On the other hand, it "apparently has launched an offensive against Albania, aimed to push the Italians into the sea and occupy all of Albania."

"The reinforced British fleet rules the Adriatic," the Red Star continued, "and is able to cut off Italian communications completely. The military position of Western Europe now is definitely stabilized. There can be no question of an invasion of Britain."

### GERMAN PRECEDENCE DROPPED

LONDON, April 9 (UP)—Germany lost its priority on the Moscow radio tonight when, for the first time, the broadcasting of the Nazi communiqué was relegated from first place to third behind those of Greece and Yugoslavia.

Reports from Moscow said anti-German sentiment was picking up, and some observers even speculated on the possibility of eventual Soviet denunciation of the pact with Germany. Moscow signed a friendship treaty with Yugoslavia last week.

### NAZIS SMASH LINES

**Drive Across Southern Yugoslavia—Cut Serbs Off From Greeks—Invaders Take Nish—Maribor Also Occupied—Battle Looms Between Germans and British.**

BY C. BROOKS PETERS

BERLIN, April 9—The cautious reserve in which the German High Command shrouded the movements of its armies in the initial stages of the Balkan campaign was broken late this afternoon with a series of special announcements. These revealed:

1. That strong German tank and armored car units advancing southward from Yugoslavia had captured Salonika, thus trapping all Greek forces east of the Vardar River to the Turkish border. The Greek Army fighting east of the Vardar, the German High Command added, realizing the hopelessness of its situation, this morning offered to capitulate and lay down its arms.
2. That after breaking through the Metaxas Line, German forces operating out of Bulgaria had taken Xanthi and reached the Aegean Sea.
3. That those German units advancing across Southern Serbia from Bulgaria had taken Veles and Tetovo and thereby cut the Yugoslavs off from all land communication with Greece and their allies there, and that the German units were rapidly approaching both the Albanian frontier, where their Italian ally awaits them, and Northwestern Greece through South Serbia.
4. That German motorized and tank units in the group under Col. Gen. Paul von Kleist took Nish at 11 o'clock this morning.

5. That German forces advancing from the Austrian border had occupied Maribor and established a bridgehead on the south bank of the Drava River.

### List Commands Troops

Thus all enemy fortifications appear to have been pierced at vital points in both Yugoslavia and Greece, and the Blitzkrieg tactics that have characterized past German campaigns in this war seem to be in application.

Particularly astounding is the rapidity with which the German forces fought their way through the Metaxas Line—the line of fortifications that was built into the mountains on the Bulgarian-Greek border after years of labor.

In this action, which, like those in South Serbia, is under the command of 61-year-old General Field Marshal Siegmund Wilhelm List, German Alpine and infantry divisions were assisted by dive bombers and anti-aircraft artillery in what is officially termed here "bitter" fighting.

Most important, however, seems to be the capture of Salonika. With this it would appear that the Greek forces had been obliged to retreat to a new line, which might possibly run from Katerini to Ostrovo, which would be some thirty miles west-southwest from the Vardar. The British forces, moreover, must also be somewhere in the latter sector.

German contact with the arch-foe Britain in the immediate future therefore appears to be a logical supposition.

With the capture of Salonika, informed quarters continue, the landing of materiel and troops to reinforce the Greek and whatever British forces are in Greece can now be effected only through southern Greek ports.

### Communications Threatened

The push of the German forces from the Vardar Valley in a southwesterly direction to Prilep, it is said in informed quarters here, forces the left wing of the Greek Army fighting against Germany to retreat and threatens at the same time the right wing of the Greek forces operating in Albania. The German push, it is added, will threaten the line of communications of these Greek forces in Albania.

Although there are still too few geographical positions known by name to have been taken by the German armies to speculate upon the future course of the advance, it is hinted semi-officially that the time is about ripe for the familiar "pincer" movements of the German Army to come into play—chiefly, it would appear, at present, however, in the Yugoslav sector.

So far as the operations in Yugoslavia are concerned, there appear reasons to suspect that the strength and morale of the Yugoslav forces have been seriously affected by the rapidity of the German advance in South Serbia and the devastating attacks of the German air force.

In South Serbia, for example, the German High Command declared today that 20,000 prisoners, including six generals and large quantities of all kinds of war materiel had been captured.

As in previous campaigns the German fliers first played havoc with the ground organization of the enemy's air force, bombing hangars, barracks and landing fields and destroying major portions of the enemy's limited supply of serviceable planes both on the ground and in the air.

### Army Seen Cut Off

Particularly effective, in the German's view, have been the successive attacks of German bombers on the "fortress"

of Belgrade Belgrade, it is added here, is the military headquarters of Yugoslavia, as well as the most important traffic and food center of the land

The push through the Vardar Valley with the increase of the width of the German lines to the north and west, as well as the taking of Nish, German quarters continue, spells the fate of the Serbian Army which no longer as in 1919 has the possibility of retreat to the Adriatic and Greece.

The Germans emphasize that in the initial stages of the campaign particularly difficult terrain had to be traversed, not only in Yugoslavia but also in Greece And although nothing is said of the fighting prowess of the Yugoslavs, the Germans continue, "unreservedly" to stress the resistance offered by and the bravery of their Greek foe.

It is said in Berlin, in connection with the rapid German advance in Greece that developments in the latter country have been influenced by the fact that the Italians are engaging strong Greek forces on another front.

### QUEEN MARIE IN BROADCAST HAILS YUGOSLAV STRUGGLE

LONDON, April 9—Queen Marie of Yugoslavia broadcast to Yugoslavia tonight using the British Broadcasting Corporation's overseas service In speaking to the Serbs and Croats she reminded them of her husband's last words when he was murdered Alexander said "Preserve Yugoslavia united"

She said:

"I am fully aware of your desire to preserve peace but only with honor and dignity Nevertheless you have in this fateful hour accepted the challenge and struggle in the heroic manner the whole world expected"

Her message to the Yugoslavs mentioned King Peter, her son

"Keep Yugoslavia united," she said "Maintain your dignity. Have full confidence in your King and his heroic army"

### TELLS OF SETBACKS TO NAZIS

ATHENS, April 9 (AP)—Two correspondents who crossed the Yugoslav-Greek frontier just ahead of a German division driving down the Vardar valley toward Salonika declared today that Serbian troops hurled the Nazi armored attacks back twice before falling back before the onslaught

"As we neared the border, a Yugoslav troop train sped past, and we learned the Germans had broken through," one said, "but when we reached the frontier we learned reserves that had just arrived plugged the gap in the lines, smashing the Germans back into Bulgaria"

"Once again the Germans broke through another spot only to be driven back, but a third time the break through succeeded."

One correspondent said the break was made with tactics like those last Spring at Sedan, when the Germans pierced the French line. He said a small number of tanks first penetrated the Yugoslav line, followed by a flood of armored cars and trucks packed with soldiers.

The newspaper men said the Germans concentrated the full striking power of their Air Force on railroads in Yugoslavia during the first two days of the fighting, bombing every station from Skoplje to the Greek frontier

### HUNGARIANS REPORT REPULSING YUGOSLAVS

#### Say Border Was Violated—Two Air Alarms in Budapest

BUDAPEST, Hungary, April 9—Yugoslav frontier guards crossed into Hungary last night at Bardoc Major, according to a communiqué issued today, which says that they retired when fired upon by Hungarian border patrols No mention is made of any casualties

Budapest had two alerts during the day, the first at 11 30 this morning and the second an hour later None of the aircraft reached the capital

It is reported that there was also an alert at Pecs, but no communiqué had been issued about it up to late this afternoon.

Five hundred Yugoslav prisoners were brought through Southern Hungary by the Germans today More are expected, including, it is thought, many Hungarians who enlisted in the Yugoslav Army

BUDAPEST, Hungary, April 9 (AP)—The Hungarian Government announced that after today foreigners would not be allowed to leave Hungary without a police permit.

LONDON, April 9 (AP)—A Rome radio broadcast, heard in London, asserted today that the Hungarian Government had announced the breaking of diplomatic relations with Yugoslavia "in view of repeated Yugoslav bombing of Hungarian territory."

### TEXT OF CHURCHILL'S REVIEW OF THE WAR IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON, April 9 (AP)—Prime Minister Churchill today obtained unanimous consent of the House of Commons for a resolution of thanks to the forces in the field and workers at home, then proceeded with his war review as follows

#### *The Story of Yugoslavia*

" . . . I therefore turn to the story of Yugoslavia This valiant steadfast people, whose history for centuries has been a struggle for life and who owe their survival to their mountains and to their fighting qualities, made every endeavor to placate the Nazi monster

If they had made common cause with the Greeks, when the Greeks hurled back the Italian invaders, the complete destruction of the Italian armies in Albania could have been certainly and swiftly achieved long before the German forces could have reached the theatre of war

Even in January or February this extraordinary military opportunity was still open But Prince Paul's government, undeterred by the fate of so many small countries, not only observed the strictest neutrality and refused even to enter into effective staff conversations with Greece or with Turkey or with us, but hugged the delusion that they could preserve their independence by patching up some sort of pact with Hitler.

Once again we see the odious German poison technique employed. In this case, however, it was to the government rather than to the nation that the dose and inoculations were administered. The process was not hurried. Why should it be? All the time the German armies and air force were entering and massing in Bulgaria From a few handfuls of tourists admiring the beauties of the Bulgarian landscape in the wintry weather, the German



forces grew to seven, twelve, twenty and finally to twenty-five divisions. Presently the weak and unfortunate Prince and afterward his Ministers were summoned, like others before them, to Hitler's footstool and a pact was signed which would have given Germany complete control not only over the body but over the soul of the Yugoslav nation.

Then at last the people of Yugoslavia saw their peril, and with a universal spasm of revolt swept from power those who were leading them into a shameful tutelage, and resolved at the eleventh hour to guard their freedom and their honor with their lives.

A boa constrictor who had already covered his prey with his foul saliva and then had it suddenly wrested from his coils, would be in an amiable mood compared with Hitler, Goering, Ribbentrop and the rest of the Nazi gang.

#### *Vengeance Vowed by Nazis*

A frightful vengeance was vowed against the Southern Slavs. Rapid, perhaps hurried, redispersions were made of German forces and German diplomacy. Hungary was offered large territorial gains to become the accomplice in the assault upon a friendly neighbor with whom she had just signed a solemn pact of friendship and non-aggression. Count Teleki, Hungarian Premier, preferred to take his own life rather than join in such a deed of shame.

A heavy forward movement of the German armies, already gathered in Austria, was set in motion through Hungary to the northern frontier of Yugoslavia. A refocious howl of hatred from the supreme miscreant was the signal for the actual invasion. The open city of Belgrade was laid in ashes and a tremendous drive by the German armored forces in Bulgaria was launched westward into Southern Serbia.

While it is no longer being worth while to keep up the farce of love for Greece, other powerful forces rolled forward into Greece, where they were at once unflinchingly encountered and have already sustained more than one bloody repulse at the hands of the heroic Greek Army. The British and Imperial troops have not up to the present been engaged. Further than this, I cannot attempt to carry the tale" . . . .

### THE TEXTS OF THE DAY'S COMMUNIQUEES

#### YUGOSLAV

*ATHENS, April 9 (AP)—The following official communiqué of the General Headquarters of the Yugoslav Army for April 6-7-8 was issued today by the Yugoslav legation in Athens.*

The enemy continued with large forces on April 7 and 8 his offensive toward Kumanovo, Skoplje and Kotchane. Despite stiff resistance, we have been compelled to evacuate Skoplje. After the occupation of Skoplje enemy armored units attacked the pass of Kachanik, where he is still attacking despite enormous losses inflicted by our bombers.

The enemy also began an attack this morning in the Caribrod sector, where our troops are resisting stubbornly.

Our offensive in Albania continues energetically on all fronts where our troops passed the Drina River in advancing toward interior Albania.

On the Northern front small battles of local character occurred in the frontier zones. The enemy

again bombarded Belgrade during April 6 and 7, although military elements had evacuated the city on the first day of the war.

In addition to Belgrade, the enemy, bombed Kragujevac, Skoplje, Chabats and Lazarevac. Material damage was enormous and there were also victims among the civilian population.

During aerial battles April 7 and 8 the enemy lost several dozens of airplanes.

*BERLIN, April 9 (UP)—The High Command issued a series of special communiqués, as follows:*

First—Strong German armored units thrust forward southward from Yugoslavia and have taken Salonika. After this break-through to the Aegean, Greek troops in Thrace between the Vardar and the Turkish frontier were cut off.

Second—After a break through the strongly fortified Metaxas Line German troops have taken Xanthi and have reached the coast of the Aegean. The advance continues.

Third—After the occupation of Skoplje and Veles German troops crossed the Vardar in the direction of Albania's western frontier and have taken Tetovo and Prilep.

Fourth—Rapid troops and armored units of the Von List group captured Nish at 11 A. M. Advancing from Styria, they occupied Maribor and created a bridgehead on the southern bank of the Drava.

Fifth—After the break through the Rupel Pass, which was defended toughly and bitterly by the Greeks, and after the capture of Salonika, the Greek army fighting east of the Vardar, recognizing its hopeless situation, offered to capitulate and laid down its arms this morning.

#### ITALIAN

*ROME, April 9 (AP)—The Italian High Command issued this communiqué today:*

On the Julia frontier [Northeastern Italy in the region of the Julian Alps] our advanced elements occupied Kranj in the Valley of the Sava River.

In Albania and on the Yugoslav front, there was activity of small detachments. We captured strong groups of prisoners with arms.

On the Greek front, we repulsed enemy attacks of local character and captured several hundred prisoners.

Our bombing formations attacked naval units and seaplanes in the harbor of Sebenico [in Yugoslavial.] A ship of medium tonnage was hit, various seaplanes, motor vehicles and barracks were damaged.

Installations at the air bases at Divulje and Vodice [in Yugoslavia] were bombed and suffered serious damage. Others of our planes machine-gunned motorized columns, wagons and supply columns.]

### ITALIANS GIVE WAY

**Yugoslavs Drive Across Drin River and Push Farther in Albania—Fight Nazis Hard—Slow Invaders' Advance in Some Sectors, but Lose Greek Contact.**

BY DANIEL T. BRIGHAM

*BERNE, Switzerland (Thursday), April 10.—However desperate the situation appeared for the Yugoslavs in*



Southern Macedonia, an entirely different picture was presented in the last twenty-four hours by operations in Albania.

With the bulk of the Yugoslav Fifth Army attacking the northern frontier at different points and such units as were not otherwise engaged attacking from the west, reports reaching here from Yugoslavia last night stated that the River Drin had been crossed at many points in the north, where "our advancing forces are encountering little resistance."

In the northwest the forces pushing down from Podgorica and Scutari, which reached the town of Alessio yesterday morning, continued their drive and, according to one report here, had arrived on the outskirts of Mamurras, near the mouth of the Fani River. The Yugoslav High Command said operations inland were "successful; many prisoners and much materiel were captured."

#### *Yugoslavs Hold Towns*

On the northeastern Albanian frontier forces pushing down from Prizren were reported to be holding the towns of Kukius and Bicaj, serving as bases for operations west of the Drin, which there flows due north and south. More pressure was brought to bear on the southern drive in that sector to widen the salient the Germans must traverse before reaching the Italians if the Germans should break through the geographical strongholds thirty-five miles to the east.

The Yugoslav communiqué for operations on April 7 and 8 said:

"In Albania our offensive is being pushed energetically on all fronts, with our troops crossing the Drin at many points and driving into the interior."

A strong German force advanced up the Vardar, where at Veles it split, sending a column of motorized troops down the Pelagora Valley in an effort to reach Prilep and continue on to Bitolj. That Pelagora column was reported to be encountering stiff resistance, slowing its advance, according to information reaching here.

From Veles, meanwhile, the remainder of the German column proceeded north toward Skoplje to connect with forces driving down the Strumitza and to take Skoplje itself. Not content with this junction, these united forces then split again, the one driving up the Lepena Valley to the northwest, and the other driving westward toward the Tetovo Valley, down which it was attempting to push on to Ochrid for a junction with the Italians. Both columns were encountering increasing resistance, and the speed of their advance was reported as perceptibly slowing. The outlook, however, remained serious.

#### *Greek-Yugoslav Contact Cut*

With the fall of Skoplje and the cutting off of Salonika, Greek and Yugoslav forces lost contact somewhere around midnight Tuesday. But for the factors of terrain and the imminence of the completion of Yugoslav counter-measures, one might say that the probabilities that the Germans and Italians would effect a junction by this morning appeared great. Halfway between Veles and Bitolj, in the Pelagora valley, however, is a long narrow pass, known as the Banuna Heights, which rise some 4,900 feet above the small river. At that point Yugoslav resistance successfully held against great odds in 1915; traditional stronghold of the Komitaji, it is strongly fortified. The fighting there is expected to be fierce, despite the aerial superiority of the German forces.

West of the Tetovo valley is the Yama Bistra plateau, about 6,500 feet high, sloping down to the peaks of the

Kara Orman, which the Germans must negotiate before reaching Italian forces. Before they can attempt this, however, they must halt somewhere to consolidate their positions and bring up forces, in the opinion of the most competent military observers here. So possibly the situation in the southeast is not so disastrous as at first appears, although its seriousness cannot be discounted.

#### *Nazi Open Way to Belgrade*

Operations on other fronts were less spectacular. A motorized division pushing up the Nisava River valley took Pirot and Nish Tuesday morning. From Nish they commanded the relatively easy Morava valley for a drive northward on Belgrade.

Elsewhere there was intense patrol activity along the front from Susak to Maribor and considerable artillery activity. Late yesterday evening a report circulated that Zagreb had been taken in a sudden movement early in the afternoon. At 9 P. M., despite heavy jamming common to all Yugoslav stations these days, presumably the work of the Germans, the Zagreb radio played the Yugoslav national anthem as it closed down for the evening until midnight.

In the northeast, according to an official Budapest communiqué, the Yugoslavs took the offensive, sending patrols across the Sava to Bardoc-Major, where they were engaged by Hungarian frontier patrols and driven back. According to information from Yugoslavia, such encounters probably will become more frequent in the near future, owing to the increasing numbers of Hungarian soldiers apparently replacing German troops there. These same Hungarian troops were withdrawn shortly after noon on Monday, their places being taken by Germans.

This replacement with Hungarians lent weight to the impression growing in diplomatic circles here that the Budapest government was preparing measures to "insure the respect of Hungarian interests in Yugoslavia," as well as "the satisfaction of Hungary's legitimate territorial aspirations."

ATHENS, Greece, April 9 (UP).—The Yugoslavs, recovering from the first staggering blows of the Nazi drive across the waistline of Yugoslavia, not only struck into Albania but counter-attacked the Germans north of Skoplje, Yugoslav official military advices said tonight.

Serbian divisions, taking advantage of the rugged terrain, were said to be battling the Germans in the Kachanik passes along the Yugoslav railroad line twenty miles north of Skoplje. The Kachanik passes are about thirty-four miles from the Albanian border and ninety miles north of the Greek-Yugoslav frontier.

The Yugoslavs in Southern Serbia, regrouping their forces, were said to be counter-attacking at several points.

The Yugoslav communiqué said the Germans continued with great forces on April 7 and 8 an offensive near Kumanova, Skoplje and Kotchane. "Our troops were forced to evacuate Skoplje," it said. "Enemy Panzer units then attacked in Kachanik Gorge, where they suffered heavy losses from our aviation."

The communiqué added that the Nazi forces also commenced an attack in the sector of Caribrod, "where our troops are resisting with fortitude."

"In air battles of the last two days the enemy has lost more than a dozen planes," the communiqué said.

## GAIN IN YUGOSLAVIA REPORTED BY ROME

**Thrust From Albania to Join Germans and Advance in North Announced—Serb Push Held Failure—Italians Say Their Sacrifices in Europe and Africa Made Nazi Victory Possible.**

BY HERBERT L. MATTHEWS

ROME, April 10—Italian forces have gone out of Albania eastward to meet the German Army which yesterday had crossed Southern Yugoslavia to within fifteen miles of the Albanian frontier, it was announced today in the Italian war bulletin.

At the same time, just across the Italo-Yugoslav frontier the Italians are said to have continued past the village of Kranj in the Sava Valley. The Yugoslav attacks around Scutari are declared to have been foiled and it is not admitted that Scutari has fallen. Zara was reported bombed and "some damage" caused.

Italian operations are rather restricted compared to the German, but commentators assert that the Germans would not have been able to accomplish what they did if the Italians had not first sacrificed themselves in Africa and Albania. For Virginio Gayda and all the Italian commentators, the Balkan and African victories are Axis victories, not German or even predominantly German.

### *Plan of Italian Attack*

The Axis is considered as a partnership in which both members play an equal part and at the end will gain equal reward. The new order for these commentators is one in which Italy and Germany will share control of Europe and Africa. Hence the Italian people are being confidentially allowed to think that the war against Yugoslavia will at last yield the coveted Dalmatian coast for Italy.

Signor Gayda today takes the line that the Italians attacked the Greeks last October with the deliberate purpose of upsetting British plans in the Balkans. Therefore, when the Yugoslav conflict began, the Allied forces were weak and hence the Germans were able to smash the Yugoslavs quickly. In the same way "the Battle of Cheren forced General Sir Archibald P. Wavell to recall many divisions from North Africa," Signor Gayda writes.

"Libya was thus laid open for the sudden offensive of the Italian and German columns."

"If Italy had not offered such a resistance to the British assaults for ten months," says the *Gazzetta del Popolo*, "the British Expeditionary Force in Greece would have arrived sooner and would have been much more important."

This paper's conclusion is like that of all commentators and is therefore to be taken as the official line.

"The faith, the tenacious labor of the people, the ardor and sacrifice of our armed forces in affronting the British Empire beside their German ally, are commencing to give the first fruits which smack of victory," it says. "We still have to fight and we will fight but no one can now doubt the victorious conclusion of the conflict. The edifice of war erected in the Balkans by England and the United States is crumbling. When it falls, one will certainly find the pieces of Roosevelt and Eden among the ruins."

### END IN TWO WEEKS SEEN

ROME, April 10 (UP)—Germany and Italy expect to knock Yugoslavia out of the war within two weeks and

then swing their might to Greece for an expected fight to the finish with the British Expeditionary Force, Axis sources said tonight.

Informants professed to see the Balkan developments as mere preliminaries to a decisive struggle between the Axis and the Allies along a line north of Athens.

Dispatches from war correspondents on the Yugoslav front told of intense Italian air activity over Yugoslavia. They said one steamship probably had been sunk in the port of Sebenico below Zara, while airports, troops and motor columns were bombed heavily.

"Our planes bombed the railroad junction at Sebenico and one train was seen to explode in the air," the *Lavoro Fascista's* correspondent reported. "In the port one large building was literally demolished by bombs."

## YUGOSLAV ENVOY DENOUNCES NAZIS

**Minister to Washington Says His Country Was Invaded "In Cold Blood"—Stresses Peace Efforts—But Adds That Now Battle for Freedom Is Joined People Will Fight to the End.**

WASHINGTON, April 10.—Yugoslavia is defending herself against an invasion undertaken by Germany "in cold blood" and despite peace efforts that were completely disregarded, Constantin Fotitch, Minister of Yugoslavia, charged today.

Speaking publicly for the first time since the invasion of Yugoslavia began, the Minister read a speech before a luncheon of the National Press Club in which he quoted dispatches emphasizing Yugoslavia's efforts to maintain a reasonable peace.

"Four hours before Germany invaded Yugoslavia," he said, "I spoke on the telephone with the Prime Minister, General [Dusan] Simovitch, who assured me that even at that late moment the government had not yet lost all hope that its efforts to maintain peace would be successful. There seems little doubt that the German Government took the decision to invade Yugoslavia in cold blood and without any desire to prevent war."

Since war has come, he added, Yugoslavia is determined to fight for her freedom, as she has been forced to do periodically for 500 years, "usually against stronger powers."

### *Fight for Freedom*

"I cannot promise you miracles," M. Fotitch said. "I cannot promise you the great victories against that wicked power which you and I desire. But I can promise you that the Serbs, Croats and the Slovenes will give a good account of themselves. They may not have the mechanized equipment, but they have the faith that they are fighting for their homes, for their churches and for their right to be free."

Mr. Fotitch read another telegram from his government to resist Germany, rather than adhere to the Axis, was made by the people, who, having made their choice, "will abide by it, grimly and uncomplainingly."

"I hope," he added, "that you will understand me when I say that I am here today as a proud man and not as one asking your commiseration."

As his first citation of evidence, M. Fotitch read a note he received last Thursday, in which the Yugoslav Minister of Foreign Affairs stated that the new regime assured Germany and Italy that it would abide

by the agreement made by Prince Regent Paul's government two days earlier.

"To this note," he said, "the Yugoslav Government never received an answer."

Mr Fotitch read another telegram from his government dated the same day. It told how Italy had dropped an offer to mediate between Germany and Yugoslavia, "after the initial contact."

#### *Cites Press Attacks*

Other dispatches he read told of campaigns instituted by the German press and radio, and reflected in Hungary, Rumania and Bulgaria on March 27, while the Yugoslavs were celebrating the accession of King Peter. In these attacks, he said, the Yugoslavs were termed "ruffians, criminals and fools."

"As for being a 'band of ruffians, criminals and fools,'" the Minister said, "I should not like to accept Mr. Hitler's authority on what, in his opinion, constitutes a gentleman or a ruffian. If to value one's honor above life is being a ruffian, then they are ruffians; if to love one's country is a crime, then they are criminals, and if to stand up against Hitler and fight is foolish, then they are fools."

Before M. Fotitch spoke he was welcomed as an ally by the Ministers of two other small nations whose forces are either fighting or preparing to fight the German armies in Eastern Europe. These were Cimon P. Diamantopoulos, Minister of Greece, and Richard G. Casey, Minister of Australia

#### **YUGOSLAV FLEET REPORTED TO HAVE ESCAPED AND JOINED BRITISH UNITS AT GREEK PORTS**

VICHY, France, April 10 (UP).—Yugoslavia's small but comparatively modern fleet has escaped from its bases on the Adriatic Dalmatian coast and joined the British Fleet operating from Greek ports, according to dispatches reaching Yugoslav quarters in Vichy tonight.

The Yugoslav naval craft were said to include destroyers, torpedo boats, four submarines and a number of swift "mosquito" torpedo boats of British and German construction, which will be particularly useful in British operations in the Adriatic.

Yugoslav quarters here said that, in so far as could be learned, the Yugoslav Fleet has suffered no serious losses in the five days of German Blitzkrieg and was able to move southward to join the British behind the screen of the Dalmatian Islands.

Although a small fleet with barely 600 officers and 7,000 men, the Yugoslav Navy is comparatively modern and of good quality due to the fact that the Belgrade government took advantage of the naval rivalry of the big powers and obtained prototypes from German, British and French shipyards.

The most obsolete vessel of the Yugoslav Fleet is the German cruiser Niobe, now forty-one years old and bought by Yugoslavia in 1928 for training purposes. It has been renamed the Dalmacija. The largest unit is the 1,850-ton flotilla leader Dubrovnik, built in 1931.

The destroyer Dubrovnik is British-built with a speed of thirty-seven knots, presumably equal to any Italian destroyers now in the Adriatic.

Of vital significance are the four Yugoslav naval bases along the Dalmatian coast—at Cattaro, Ragusa, Spalato and Sebenico.

They form an ideal extension of the British-Greek naval bases. By the same token, they would be highly useful in enemy hands. The islands along the Dalmatian coast provide perfect hiding places for submarines and mosquito boats, which could be taken in by rail and assembled.

Naval observers here believed that one of the gravest dangers to the Allies in the German capture of Salonika was the possibility of hauling in pocket submarines for assembly there to patrol the Aegean Sea and choke off traffic through the Dardanelles.

#### **MOSCOW STRESSES YUGOSLAV TREATY**

**Red Star Says Soviet Pact Is "All the More Valuable" Under New Conditions—Holds Peace Is Sought—Russian Navy Paper Sees a "Serious Danger to Italy" In the Balkan Hostilities.**

MOSCOW, April 10 (AP).—Red Star, organ of the Red Army, said today the Russian-Yugoslav friendship pact signed just before the outbreak of the Balkan conflict is "all the more valuable under the new conditions because the Soviet Union always fulfills its international pledges."

The paper said the pact gave "new proof to the attractive force of the principles of the peaceful policy of the Soviet Union."

"It also reflected further the strengthening position and international role of the U. S. S. R. and increases its influence on the development of international relations," the army organ added.

Red Star concluded:

"At the most critical moment in the development of events in the Balkans the Soviet-Yugoslav agreement demonstrated the peaceful intentions of the new government of Yugoslavia. Foreign political aims toward Yugoslavia aroused the full sympathy of the government of the Soviet Union, which is carrying on an active and continuous struggle for peace."

The paper reported that the Soviet Union had watched closely the efforts of the Yugoslav Government, "based on the sympathy of a majority of the people," to keep the peace and their independence. Reaffirming the pact's promise to keep friendly relations in case one of the signatories should be attacked, Red Star said:

"Such a situation arose for Yugoslavia the very day after signature of the agreement."

"The Soviet-Yugoslav agreement was based on a firm foundation of friendship and confidence which was felt by the peoples of both countries," the paper said.

In a separate article reviewing the development of mechanical warfare, the paper said the "military successes of Germany are not due to new arms but the use of the decisive force of the mechanized army."

Red Fleet, the navy newspaper, said the spread of the war in the Balkans meant "a new front for Germany on the European Continent."

"The attraction of large forces on the southeastern front may change the position on other fronts of the Anglo-German war," the paper said, adding that the action in the Balkans necessarily drew German planes

and troops away from England.

"Serious danger to Italy" also was seen from the fact that the British now have airports closer to Italian industrial centers

### BRITISH DEPRESSED BY BALKAN EVENTS

#### German Gains in Yugoslavia and Greece Linked to Loss of Ground in Libya.

BY ROBERT P. POST

LONDON, April 10—Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden and Chief of Staff Sir John Dill returned to London today but did not return to any cheerful picture.

On the credit side of their flying trips to the Near East there is the resistance of the Yugoslavs and Greeks and the tentative resistance of Turkey with the important addendum that this resistance probably will not take place unless Turkey is attacked. On the debit side there is the fact that all Great Britain's hard-won territorial gains in Northern Africa have been nullified by the Germans, and the British now are talking once more about defending Alexandria, Cairo and the Suez Canal.

There is also the fact that the British appear to have lost many prisoners and at least three senior staff officers, one of them General Sir Richard Nugent O'Connor, General Sir Archibald Wavell's best man in Libya, who appear to have been captured by roving German armored columns while they were on staff reconnaissance and apparently uncovered by protective forces.

#### *Coherent Plan Missed*

Also on the debit side is the fact that Mr. Eden never succeeded in seeing the Yugoslavs and persuading them, the Greeks and Turks to form any kind of coherent plan. That failure was not necessarily Mr. Eden's fault, but certainly it has led to German successes, which seem to be continuing. The Germans have done extremely well so far. Apparently, according to Yugoslav sources here, they are using a new tank.

So far as is known, the British have not yet been in contact with them on land in the Balkans. There is considerable speculation here as to what the British are up to. It should be understood that the British decision to send troops to Greece was political not military.

It was not a good place for British troops. If they had to go to that part of the world at all, it would have been better strategically for them to have gone to Turkey. But the heroic Greek resistance made it morally incumbent on the British to come to the aid of the Greeks. By now British generals probably are wishing they had the troops in Turkey ready to come in on the German flank. But if they had, the attack probably would have been made on Turkey, in which case the British would have wished they had a force in Greece to come in on the German flank.

#### *Men and Equipment Lacking*

What they would really want is a strong force in both countries able to come in on either flank. But they have neither the men nor the equipment for such

forces. And it has been proved in modern war that equipment and its maintenance are everything.

What the comparatively small British forces in Greece are doing is not known. What they are designed to do is not known, except they obviously were not there to defend Salonika or the Greeks and Yugoslavs who have been cut off by the success of the German drive.

Maybe there will be better news soon. Maybe there is a plan worked out with full knowledge of the modern German war machine. It is possible that lines have been prepared in depth and that somewhere the British and Greeks together will come to grips with the Germans in the Balkans.

But that news has not come in yet, and it can only be recorded at the moment that the news for the British is about as black as it ever has been. There is no other comparison but with those dark days of last June when Dunkerque was being evacuated.

### 100,000 PRISONERS CLAIMED BY NAZIS

#### 80,000 Greeks in Addition to 20,000 Yugoslavs Reported Captured So Far—Rail Objectives Bombed—Zagreb Is Said to have Fallen—Air Assaults on British in Greece Planned.

BY C. BROOKS PETERS

BERLIN, April 10—Having released a plethora of special announcements yesterday revealing the rapid advance of its forces in the Balkans, the German High Command today retires again behind a veil of silence. The lengthy communiqué that it released this afternoon was largely a recapitulation of yesterday's announcements, with added detail in some instances but with no indication of the further course of the advance in either of the two theatres of war.

It may be assumed, however, particularly in Yugoslavia, that the German advance is continuing and that the familiar pincer tactics are beginning to take form. However, until such time as the German High Command deems fit, the world will merely have to wait and see whether the campaign on the southeastern front is going to equal or exceed the speed of previous campaigns conducted by the Germans in this war.

It was announced that already 80,000 Greek prisoners have been counted in the army which is said here to have surrendered east of the Bardar. The final figure, military headquarters declared, will exceed this number, because down to the present the German forces have not had time to count accurately the number of troops taken in Macedonia.

In addition to the 20,000 prisoners reported yesterday to have been taken in South Serbia, the German High Command declared, some 100 cannons, several hundred machine-guns, as well as large reserves of gasoline, ammunition and equipment were also captured.

#### *Rail Objectives Bombed*

The armored and infantry divisions under Col. Gen. Paul von Kleist, after having occupied Nish, are pursuing the "retreating enemy," the German High Command adds. Stukas are reported to have bombed roads and rail objectives in Yugoslavia, while bombers

attacked airdromes in Bosnia and destroyed seven and damaged five enemy airplanes on the ground.

In the sector between the Drava and Sava Rivers in Croatia, according to the German High Command, troop trains carrying reinforcements and railway lines were hit by explosive bombs.

According to a report from one of Germany's soldier war correspondents the break through the Metaxas Line in Greece, required six hours. German artillery, forcefully assisted by Stukas and regular bombers, reportedly laid the Greek mountain chain of fortifications low, while Alpine units of infantry had to clean up each individual pillbox stubbornly defended by the Greeks.

### ZAGREB REPORTED TAKEN

BERLIN, April 10 (AP).—The German High Command announced tonight that German motorized troops occupied Zagreb, capital of old Croatia, this evening and were greeted joyously by the Croat populace.

At the same time the Germans declared themselves ready for air assaults on the British in Greece as a prelude to a clash at close quarters.

Reich Marshal Hermann Goering's air force apparently will take over the task of "softening up" the British Expeditionary Forces in Greece before Nazi ground troops tackle them.

"It is self-evident," said the commentary *Dienst aus Deutschland*, which has close Foreign Office connections, "that the rail line on the east coast of Greece will be one of the principal objectives of German bombers."

This single-track line leads north from Piraeus, the port of Athens, to the area where British and Greek troops are concentrated. In the German view a few well-placed bombs would paralyze this lifeline.

*Dienst aus Deutschland* indicated similar strategy would be employed against Yugoslavia. German troops are advancing westward through that country while German and Italian armies are on the northern boundary.

Aerial arms of these forces, the commentary asserted, "will be in a position to disturb Serbian food imports through the [Adriatic] harbors of Ragusa and Spalato."

German pilots, informed quarters said, swooped down to within a few feet of the heads of embattled Serbs yesterday to dislodge them from almost impregnable heights.

The High Command acknowledged the loss of nineteen German planes, but said these losses were more than offset by the destruction of thirty-six Allied planes, including twenty-nine British and seven Yugoslav.

German war correspondents, who are a part of the fighting forces, paid tribute to the valor of the Greeks and Yugoslavs.

### 3 CITIES REPORTED TAKEN

GENEVA, Switzerland, April 10 (AP).—A Berlin dispatch to the newspaper *Tribune de Geneve* reported tonight that the Germans had entered Belgrade, Zagreb and Ljubljana in Yugoslavia.

The dispatch pointed out that official announcements of such advances usually were delayed twenty-four to thirty-six hours for military reasons.

### BITOLJ REPORTED REACHED

LONDON, April 10 (AP).—The British news agency Reuters quoted the radio at Tirana, Albania, tonight as reporting in Greek that German troops had entered Belgrade and reached Bitolj, southwest Yugoslav border city.

### NAZIS AT BELGRADE

**Another Force Occupies Zagreb and Ljubljana—  
Battle in the South—Italians Stopped—Thrown Back  
In Drives Toward the Germans—Parachutists Taken.**

BY DANIEL T. BRIGHAM

BERNE, Switzerland, Friday, April 11.—Two heavy German columns pushing down the Sava and Drava valleys in Yugoslavia from the Austro-Italian frontier and down the valley of the Mur from Graz during the last twenty-four hours have succeeded in occupying a line running roughly southeast by east through Ljubljana and Zagreb eastward.

Another column, moving westward, presumably from Virset, at the Rumanian border, have arrived on the outskirts of the devastated city of Belgrade. That this column had effected a junction with the Ljubljana-Zagreb column was denied in reports reaching Berne last night.

In the southeast the situation was reported to be "stationary," with Germans vainly trying to force the Kachanik Pass, where the Bulgarians were held in 1915. In many respects today's lines recall those of that campaign. If the Yugoslavs hold they threaten the German bases for the Tetovo action at Skopje; if they are trapped the possibilities of resistance in the Kosovopolj Valley toward the flat plains in the north are restricted, to say the least.

### *Italians Driven Back*

Four attempts by the Italians in Albania to effect a sortie through the Kara Orman heights in an attempt to join the Germans pushing down the Tetovo were driven back with "heavy losses to the attackers."

With the occupation of Zagreb and Belgrade it was understood here the Yugoslav Fourth Army on the west, based at Zagreb, and the First Army on the east, based at Novi Sad, had withdrawn according to plans, moving southward and toward the center from their original position toward a fixed point probably south of Brod and the Sava River. It was reported that those armies withdrew fighting only small rear-guard actions.

The Yugoslav High Command communiqué covering operations up to noon yesterday and dated "Somewhere in Yugoslavia" said "the enemy continued his advances in the valley of the Morava, occupying Paracin and Cuprija. On the northern front," it said, "the enemy had little success on the Virovititza sector, where he was halted by the vigilant action of our troops."

"Some activity" on the Italian front in the northwest was reported. "Parachute troops, dropped in different places, were all surrounded and captured," the communiqué said.

After remarking, "No change in the situation in Albania," the communiqué added that, "owing to poor weather conditions, aerial activity was restricted."

The drive down the Morava Valley was being made from Nish, captured yesterday by motorized forces under General Paul von Kleist. Yugoslav military circles pointed out, however, that the Morava Valley was still east of the main defensive positions and that, although the situation was serious, it was not disastrous.

Contact with the Hungarian border was still maintained, as proved by the reports of frequent clashes between frontier guards on both sides of the line yesterday. These actions, it was reported here, were brought about by Hungarian units attempting to advance into Yugoslav territory and, on encountering Yugoslav units, opening fire.

The Yugoslavs reported they returned this fire with heavy machine-guns and "other automatic arms." There were casualties on both sides.

Despite the terrific destruction inflicted upon Belgrade during five German air raids, order was rapidly being restored there yesterday. Communications were being re-established and food and health services restored. By order of General Krsisch, civilian evacuation ceased, and refugees, after having spent four days and three nights in fields to avoid aerial bombardment, were returning.

It is reported that neutral diplomatic intervention succeeded in extracting a promise from the Germans that Belgrade would be spared further bombardment. There was no confirmation of this.

### SEEK TO REGAIN SKOPLJE

ZURICH, Switzerland, April 10 (UP)—Serbian troops were reported today to be battling furiously in an effort to recapture the Vardar Valley town of Skoplje from the Nazis.

### FREE CROAT STATE REPORTED FORMED

**New Leaders Involved in the Murder of King Alexander —Germans Enter Capital.**

BERNE, Switzerland, April 10 (AP)—German motor troops rolled tonight into Zagreb, the capital of old Croatia, and German news agency dispatches said the patchwork Kingdom of Yugoslavia had been ripped asunder by the formation of a separate Croat State.

[Hungarian troops were reported early today to have entered Yugoslav areas that had been taken from Hungary after the World War.]

The Croats, long a large and restless element of Yugoslavia, were declared to have established their own nation under Ante Pavelitch and another extremist named Egon Kvaternik, both once sentenced to death for complicity in the assassination of King Alexander in 1934.

Vladimir Matchek, mild, bespectacled old Croat peasant leader who only last week accepted vice premiership of the Yugoslav Government, was por-

trayed as one of the prime movers of the new Zagreb Government. This is a sensational about face, if true, for M. Matchek long has been known as an enemy of Pavelitch and an outspoken critic of the many assassinations and terroristic plots laid to Pavelitch in his campaign against Yugoslav unity.

It was M. Matchek, however, to whom the German news agency attributed announcement of the new Croat State in a radio address from Zagreb.

The German High Command announced merely that Zagreb was occupied and that the Croat population greeted the Nazi troops joyously. This conformed with M. Matchek's asserted advice to the public just before the occupation to hang German and Croat flags on their homes.

According to the news report, M. Matchek announced that Pavelitch would head the government, that he himself would participate and that "at this very moment" a Croat politician named Kvaternik had been appointed vice-premier and was "taking the administration in hand."

[D. N. B., official German news agency, carried in Berlin a slightly different account from Bratislava, Slovakia, to the effect that the Zagreb radio announced "General Sladko Kvaternik," as chief of state, had proclaimed Croatia an independent nation.]

This apparently is the same mysterious person, known variously as Egon Kvaternik and Egon Kramer, who with Pavelitch was sentenced to death in absentia by French courts for the Marseille killing of King Alexander. Yugoslavia's present King Peter II is Alexander's oldest son.

Both Pavelitch and Kvaternik found sanctuary in Italy, which refused extradition.

Only three days ago Pavelitch, still in Italy, telegraphed Premier Mussolini a pledge of support.

M. Matchek, chief of 3,500,000 Croats, has been with the fugitive Yugoslav Government of King Peter and Premier Dusan Simovitch at an undisclosed place in Central Yugoslavia, but reports here said he returned to Zagreb two days ago "to spend these decisive hours with my people."

It was to guard against just such a schism as the German sources now report that General Simovitch assigned Croat troops to South Serbia and Serb troops to Croatia before the war began. Apparently this device failed.

From the Axis point of view, Pavelitch the man of action and M. Matchek, the revered old scholar, would be an ideal team to head a Croat government.

Now 48 years old, Pavelitch is head of the Ustachi, a terrorist organization whose members for two decades have been blamed by the secret police of many lands for a score of political assassinations, poisonings and bombings in Southeast Europe.

Pavelitch himself has been sentenced to death three times. Members of the Ustachi were taught the arts at the Janka Puzsta farm in Hungary, and the "students" declared Pavelitch often made speeches to them in praise of Adolf Hitler.

Testimony at the French trials of King Alexander's accused assassins included allegations that Italy, Germany and Hungary had meddled in the scheme.

### HUNGARIAN TROOPS ENTER BANAT

BERNE, Switzerland, Friday, April 11.—Answering reported appeals of Hungarian minority leaders



of the Yugoslav Banat for protection and charging that the proclamation by Dr Ante Pavelitch of a "legitimate government of independent Croatia" constituted de facto disintegration of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes and hence constituted no violation of the Hungaro-Yugoslav amity pact. Admiral Regent Horthy early today announced he had put Hungarian troops in the Banat areas ceded to Yugoslavia under the Treaty of Trianon in 1919, "to protect their inhabitants."

The troops entered immediately, and since dawn have been digging in and making all preparations to resist should "irregular bands of komitojis" attempted to drive them out, the statement by the Regent said.

He stressed that this measure was not to be interpreted as a hostile act directed against Yugoslavia, "with whom we wish to maintain friendly relations," but rather as a "temporary" measure to prevent Hungarian lives and property from being endangered in a zone where no proper authority existed.

A Hungarian broadcast, referring to the pact of "eternal friendship" signed in December with Yugoslavia, and its present relations with that country, said in part.

"Any group that overthrows the constitutional government of the State in order to assume power no longer has either the moral or the political right to interpret in its favor treaties which its evicted predecessors had signed with any other State."

This would seem both from the tone of the broadcast and its context to indicate that Hungary has to her own satisfaction, dealt with her moral obligations under that treaty not to attack the "territorial integrity" of Yugoslavia.

When the Treaty of Trianon deprived Hungary of two-thirds of her territory, she became a revisionist power. In 1938 and 1939 she satisfied some of her claims by the acquisition of parts of dismembered Czecho-Slovakia; in 1940 she obtained Transylvania at the expense of Rumania; today she covets "her" one territorial claim still outstanding—the Yugoslav Banat.

Bulgaria's position harbors a latent threat when one couples her leaders' declaration of intentions to maintain an attitude of "watchful waiting" with the Yugoslav claims of Bulgarian troop intervention in the Strumitza offensive and the special "defense" budget of 2,200,000,000 leva passed without debate today.

Bulgaria is also a "revisionist" State with territorial aspirations on both Yugoslavia and Greece. Here, again, the tenuous position of Yugoslavia, according to the German version and the geographical fact that German forces are more than two-thirds of the way across the Southern Vardar Province, would appear to present the long-awaited occasion to satisfy these desires.

#### *Large Areas Lost*

Under the Treaty of Trianon in 1920 Hungary lost perhaps 500,000 of her Magyar population to Yugoslavia in the Banat, Baranya and Medjumurje regions. The first district was divided between Yugoslavia and Rumania. The Baranya portion was that formed by the angle of the Drava and Danube rivers, and the other in the region between the Drava and Mur rivers.

Altogether the treaty took from Hungary and gave to her neighbors, 192,000 square miles of her 283,000 square-mile area; 10,782,000 of her population of 20,886,487, and thirty per cent, or 3,300,000 of the 9,945,000 pure Magyars

### THE TEXTS OF THE DAY'S COMMUNIQUE ON THE WAR

#### YUGOSLAV

LONDON, April 10 (AP)—The Yugoslav high command issued the following communiqué today from "Somewhere in Yugoslavia"

The enemy continues to advance in the valley of Morava, occupying Paracin and Cuprija.

On the northern front the enemy has had little success in the Virovititza sector, where he was halted following vigilant action by our troops.

There was slight activity on the Italian front.

Enemy parachutists were dropped in several places, but they all were rounded up and taken prisoners.

There was no change in the situation in Albania.

Because of bad weather there was little aircraft activity.

#### ITALIAN

ROME, April 10 (AP)—The Italian High Command issued this communiqué today.

On the Giulia front [Northwestern Yugoslavia in the Julian Alps] the advance of our troops is continuing in the Sava River Valley beyond Kranj.

In Albania on the Yugoslav front, enemy actions in the Scutari zone have been repulsed. Numerous prisoners were taken. Our columns are advancing eastward in Yugoslav territory to meet German columns.

On the Greek front there was nothing noteworthy to report.

Italian air formations bombed enemy troops and motor vehicles in the Bencovazzo zone near Zara. The Sebenico port works were hit again by our bombers. Fighter squadrons machine-gunned defense works and troops on the Yugoslav-Albanian front and from low altitude attacked ten seaplanes riding at anchor near Slosella in the Zara zone, destroying four and seriously damaging others.

Enemy planes flew over Zara dropping bombs and causing some damage.

#### GERMAN

BERLIN, April 10 (AP)—The German High Command issued this communiqué today.

Great successes in Serbia and Greece have already been announced April 9, in special reports. German troops advancing from Styria occupied Maribor April 9. The armored units and infantry divisions of Col. Gen. von Kleist, following occupation of the rail and road junction of Nish were pursuing the retreating enemy.

In a thrust toward the Albanian border and after crossing the Vardar River, Tetovo and Prilep were taken. Besides 20,000 prisoners captured, as reported yesterday, about 100 pieces of artillery, several hundred machine guns, large quantities of motor fuel, ammunition and other equipment fell into our hands.

Stukas effectively attacked the road and rail targets in Yugoslavia.



Combat planes bombed Foslavian airports, destroying seven and damaging five parked planes. In the region between the Sava and Drava Rivers, tracks and supply trains were hit by explosives. Armored units, in an advance through the Vardar Valley from Yugoslavia, took Salonika.

Ten enemy planes were downed the day before yesterday during an attempt to make day raids in the occupied regions. The enemy's total losses since April 8 amount to forty-three planes, including one already reported down, plus one downed by a pursuer in Libya. Of the total, thirty-six were British and seven were Yugoslav planes.

An additional number of British and Yugoslav planes was damaged.

Nineteen of our own planes during the same period failed to return.

### REPORT YUGOSLAVS ROUTED

**Nazis See Debacle—Yugoslav Army Is "Wiped Out," Berlin Holds, With Large Units Giving Up—Greeks Face Threat—Germany Says Contact With Fascisti Is Made Near Lake Ochrida.**

BY C. BROOKS PETERS

BERLIN, April 11—The German military campaign in Yugoslavia has turned into a rout of the enemy's forces which may best be termed a debacle, according to official quarters here.

A special bulletin from the German High Command stated tonight that the forces that destroyed resistance in South Serbia had joined hands with forces of the Italians north of Lake Ochrida.

Thereupon, Adolf Hitler telegraphed to Premier Mussolini:

"In the moment when Italian and German units joined hands for the first time in the Yugoslav theatre of war, I greet you most heartily. In true comradeship, Adolf Hitler."

The Yugoslav Army as such, it is said here, no longer exists. To all practical purposes, German quarters add, it has been "wiped out" or perhaps better "blotted out." The extent of the enemy's defeat, German quarters continue, cannot yet be revealed, but they infer it exceeds even that of the French forces on the Western Front slightly less than a year ago.

The Germans report that the irony in their war activities in Yugoslavia is that the most formidable resistance has been and is being offered by Croat regiments which had been stationed by the Belgrade command in the southern portion.

Judging from German statements, it appears that the Yugoslav Army, although fully mobilized, had not yet been able to occupy all its predetermined positions before the German colossus struck.

According to the German High Command, the German soldiers who yesterday occupied Zagreb and may be assumed to be continuing their southerly advance are under the command of Col. Gen. Baron Maximilian von Weichs. Their advance, it was stated, was made difficult by the inclement weather and the topography of the country in which they were operating.

### Resistance Reported Broken

When the German forces entered Zagreb, it is reported, the entire city was beflagged to greet them. The only resistance which they met, according to German sources, was the final weak last stand of Serbian units on the bridges commanding the approach to the town. This resistance was said to be quickly broken and the German tanks and armored units moved into the Croat capital.

The German forces which captured Nish are advancing in a northwesterly direction and, the German High Command declares, are hard on the heels of the enemy. They have already defeated several divisions in middle Serbia, the German report adds, and captured 10,000 prisoners and seventy cannon, along with large quantities of other material.

The enemy forces operating in South Serbia have been completely destroyed, the German General headquarters asserts. The last group of enemy troops capable of offering resistance were either wiped out yesterday or taken prisoner near Krivolac, it is said. A special announcement late this afternoon revealed that the total number of prisoners captured in this sector, according to most recent information, is 40,000, while 200 cannon have been taken.

The impression that one gathers from informed Berlin quarters is that the Yugoslav resistance is broken on all important fronts and that Belgrade's forces are surrendering in groups of as large as 10,000 in various sectors, unable to stand the pressure of what Adolf Hitler has termed the best soldiers in the world, armed with the best equipment in the world.

From the southern theatre of war the German High Command reports that the process of taking over the Greek Army east of the Vardar, which was forced to capitulate after the Germans had occupied Salonika, is progressing according to plan. The number of prisoners and the amount of booty, the Germans add, cannot yet even be estimated.

There is no hint either in the military communiqué or in well-informed quarters in Berlin whether the Germans have begun operations against the combined British-Greek force, somewhere west of the Vardar. It would not appear surprising, however, in the light of past performances, if the Germans were to allow a pause in operations while they concentrate the necessary equipment and forces in the new sector before beginning the decisive offensive.

With the defeat of the enemy in South Serbia, the left wing of the Greek forces operating against the Italians in Albania appears to be threatened by a further advance of the German Army.

The Air Force, meanwhile, contributed its full share in the Yugoslav campaign. According to the Germans it bombed roads, railway lines, enemy troop concentrations and moving columns.

West of Zagreb a transport train was reported bombed. Southward the German Air Force carried out an attack on the objectives in the harbor of Piraeus, port of Athens. One British store of gasoline was, the German High Command declares, set afire, while four enemy transports were hit by bombs.

## YUGOSLAV REGION CLAIMED FOR ITALY

**Demand for Kossovo Area is Buttressed by "Appeal" From Exiles for Union—Fascist Spirits Revived—Success of Joint Campaign With Nazis in Balkans Dispels Rome's Growing Despair.**

BY H. L. MATTHEWS

ROME, April 11—Now that it appears that Yugoslavia is going to be split up into many pieces the Italian newspapers today make it clear that Italy expects to get the region of Kossovo. This is the zone to the northeast and north of Albania.

The people of the region are said to be predominantly Albanian to the number of about 1,000,000. It is not a mere coincidence that a group of Kossovite exiles in Bulgaria has just sent a message to Premier Muscolini asking that their region be annexed.

The Dalmation coast has often been one of the dreams of Italian fascism. In the recent demonstrations, as well as in the newspapers that aspiration has been clearly expressed. However, that is asking a great deal. Anyway, it is realized that, although Yugoslavia may seem like a grab bag to everybody around here, it is Germany that is conquering the country, hence Berlin will be in a position to dictate terms. There may be merely an armistice for part of Yugoslavia, as in France; and it will be recalled that Italy so far has received virtually nothing from France.

Whether for that reason or not, there is great emphasis in all newspapers that it has been an Axis, not merely a German victory.

"The cry of joy with which Croatia, restored to her independence, salutes the liberating arms," writes the Tribune, "is a new confirmation that the strength of the Axis is at the service of a great European cause."

### *Gayda Sees Albania Saved*

"Once again the Axis powers," says Virginio Gayda, "operating on the revolutionary plan with perfect diplomatic and military harmony in their diverse tasks, are putting to flight and breaking up the attempted invasion of the Italian Empire."

As Signor Gayda works it out, Yugoslavia, Greece and Britain based their main strategic plan on smashing Albania as soon as hostilities opened. But, he says, the Italians not only stopped them, but wrested away the initiative, thus holding many enemy divisions immobilized while the Germans came up behind them and smashed them.

Today's war bulletin gives Italy's contribution to yesterday's operations. It says:

"On the Giulia front Longatico was occupied [Longatico is a village just inside the Italo-Yugoslav frontier on the main road to Ljubljana]. Our action continues in the Sava and Ljubljana Valleys.

"In Albania on the eastern front the advance of our troops into Yugoslav territory continues

"Nothing new on the Greek front"

[Italian motorized Bersaglieri and German regiments were said by Stefani, the official Italian news agency, to have met in the Ochrida zone after the Italians had occupied the city of Ochrida, Berlin confirmed this.]

The advance into Yugoslavia mentioned in the communiqué is to make a junction with the German forces,

which two days ago were reported fifteen miles from the Albanian frontier

### *Italian Spirits Revived*

The joy, satisfaction and pride that have succeeded the despair of a week ago in Italy are reflected in innumerable editorials, headlines and radio comments, emphasizing the discomfiture of the democracies, the strength of the Axis and the fate that overtakes such nations as Yugoslavia which defy the Axis or fail to appreciate its good intentions.

Signor Gayda is quite clear about Kossovo.

"The Albanians of Kossovo," he writes, "who have survived many massacres, demand freedom and their natural incorporation into Albania, which celebrates her union with Italy."

"The Albanians of Kossovo have always aspired to rejoin the mother country," says the Popolo di Roma, "and they have always looked toward Italy as the jealous custodian of the interests and prosperity of Albania and the only nation that could champion and realize their national dream."

The message sent by the Kossovite exiles to the Italian Premier says:

"The hour has come for the reunion of this Albanian region with its dear Albanian fatherland."

"Certainly every Italian is convinced that it is now or never. The opinion of the world is made up on that which was Yugoslavia," declares Stefani. "The mosaic Yugoslav State is meeting the same fate as the other mosaic State that was called Czecho-Slovakia. Both of them were constructed at Versailles by those wretched builders, Wilson, Clemenceau and Lloyd George."

## YUGOSLAVS FIGHT HARD AT SKOPLJE

**Wreck 170 German Tanks in Barring Union With Italians—Await Aid From U. S.**

SOMEWHERE IN YUGOSLAVIA [No Date Given]—It was said authoritatively today that a German advance had been checked at Krusevac, with a German general captured and numerous prisoners and material taken. A terrific battle is raging southwest of Skoplje. The Yugoslavs are attempting to check a powerful German drive seeking a junction with the Italians. Yugoslavs, using hand grenades, are reported to have destroyed eighty tanks at Kachanik Pass and ninety at Piro.

[This dispatch from Ray Brock, correspondent of The New York Times, was received in common with other newspapers and services. It is apparently several days old, as other information shows the Germans have advanced considerably beyond some of the points mentioned in it.]

Despite continuous Nazi bombings, Yugoslavs were attempting to maintain a corridor at Bitolj for the passage of British reinforcements. [The Germans reported this resistance broken.] Yugoslav aviation, despite superhuman individual heroism, desperately needs replacements, especially fighters, as a result of losses in the air and airport bombings.

## CROATS ARE URGED TO QUIT THE ARMY

**Proclaimed Premier of State Said to Have Appealed for a Return to Zagreb—Pavelitch New President—Kvaternik Reported to Have Become Premier and Chief of the Armed Forces.**

BUDAPEST, Hungary, April 11 (AP)—Sladko Kvaternik, proclaimed Premier of a new independent Croat State, was said to have appealed today to Croat regiments now serving with the Yugoslav Army to return immediately to Zagreb.

Observers said such an appeal might be regarded as a call to Croat troops—thousands of whom are fighting against the Germans and Italians elsewhere—to revolt against their Serb leaders.

Kvaternik was quoted here as saying:

"I order every Croat regiment to report to Zagreb, where I am stationed, to take the oath of allegiance to the Croat State and its leader, Ante Pavelitch."

The new State will be composed of Bosnia, Herzegovina and Dalmatia, as well as the old Croat Province, informed sources said, with Pavelitch as President and Kvaternik head of the government as Premier.

Kvaternik was said to have broadcast the following proclamation to the Croat people:

"Pavelitch, the leader of the Croat people, and Adolf Hitler have decided to rebuild the old Croat State. With this decision many hundreds of years of fighting by the Croat people and the long work of Pavelitch for the independence of Croatia have found a successful end.

"I request every Croat to put himself at the disposal of the new government. I have taken over myself the high command of the Croat Army.

"I decree that the capital of the new Croat State should receive the German troops with joy and loyalty because Germany has made great sacrifices for our people."

Vladimir Matchek, leader of the Croat peasant party and Vice Premier in the Yugoslav Government of General Dusan Simovitch, was said to have broadcast a message asking all members of his party to support the new government.

The Hungarian press reported that Croats living in Vienna had demonstrated for an independent Croat State yesterday and had asked the Nazi Governor, Baldur von Schirach, to ask Herr Hitler to assist the Croats against "Serb oppressors."

## PETER REPORTED FLEEING

**Yugoslav King Said to Be in Athens or on Way to Turkey.**

ZURICH, Switzerland, April 11—The German radio broadcast late tonight a report credited to "Greek sources" that King Peter of Yugoslavia had been in Athens since Thursday. It said that he was planning to flee by airplane to the Island of Cyprus in the Eastern Mediterranean.

BUDAPEST, April 11 (AP).—A semi-official telegram from Istanbul today said that many members of the Yugoslav royal court had arrived by plane in Turkey and that 17-year-old King Peter was expected to follow.

## PHILLIPS ACTING FOR YUGOSLAVIA

ROME, April 11 (UP).—United States Ambassador William Phillips was prevented from entering the Yugoslav Legation for a short time yesterday when he went there to take over Yugoslav interests in Italy, it was learned today. An Italian police guard informed Mr. Phillips that he needed a special Foreign Office permit. Mr. Phillips later returned with the permit and formally took over the legation.

## DONOVAN RIDICULES STORY

**"Poppycock and Tripe." He Says of Report of His Balkan Talks.**

CHICAGO, April 11—Colonel William J. Donovan tonight termed "poppycock and tripe" charges in news stories that he played a considerable part in bringing about the present situation in the Balkans.

"The stories are absurd," Colonel Donovan said. "Whenever I talked to any one in the Balkans it was in the presence of the American Minister or some member of the Legation."

He met with an equally vehement denial reports that he had conferred with Constantin Fotitch, Yugoslav Minister to the United States, before starting on his journey to Europe.

"I never met Fotitch until I was introduced to him at the Press Club the other day," Colonel Donovan declared. "The statement that I had the ear of the President is also wrong. I do not have the ear of the President. They call me 'Washington's No. 2 agent provocateur.' Who is No. 1, I wonder?"

## WASHINGTON GLUM OVER BALKAN WAR

**Officials Wonder if the British Will Evacuate if All Hope in Greece Disappears—Next Nazi Push Debated—Attack on Suez and Gibraltar Seen in Effort to Get Fleet From the Mediterranean.**

BY BERTRAM D. HULEN

WASHINGTON, April 11—Tension was evident in the State Department today over the black outlook in the Balkans.

The gloomy situation of the British, Greeks and Yugoslavs was said to have been reached quicker than had been anticipated even by officials who had never expected a successful Yugoslav and Greek resistance to the German war machine. Conjectures were directed not to the question of whether the two Balkan countries could hold out, but on whether the British would evacuate if all hope disappeared and what would happen then.

Diplomatic and military experts wondered whether there would be a drive on Suez and on Gibraltar to force the British fleet out of the Mediterranean. They would not be surprised if the German mechanized force in Libya went to the Egyptian frontier. If air bases could be established there Suez could more easily be bombed from the air and more magnetic mines could be dropped to interfere with shipping.

## Nazis Active in Near East

There are more reports of German efforts to stir up the Mohammedans in Egypt and in countries of the

Middle East. They have already succeeded in Iraq where a pro-Nazi government has seized power through a military coup d'état and is backed by the military and the native tribes.

When Secretary of State Cordell Hull was asked today whether the United States would recognize the new regime in Baghdad he said he had not heard that discussed or suggested. It is not expected that recognition will be accorded.

The situation in the Balkans is increasingly being referred to in informed circles as a product in considerable part of American intervention with pledges of support if the Yugoslav Army would revolt, install a new regime and oppose the Axis. Britain went along with words of encouragement.

According to information from authoritative sources, the key figure for the United States was Colonel William J. Donovan, who went to the Near East last Winter as the investigator for Secretary of the Navy Frank Knox. He interviewed most of the leading officials in the Balkans, including Prince Paul of Yugoslavia and the military chieftains of that country.

#### *Went Without Consultations*

Secretary Hull made clear from the first that Colonel Donovan was not a State Department representative. Moreover, according to officials, he did not have the advantage of consultations in advance with American diplomatic experts or of any coaching for a mission of the scope that his turned out to be. Eventually he appeared in the Near East as virtually an emissary of President Roosevelt.

It is said that he did confer before leaving with Constantin Fotitch, the Yugoslav Minister here, who has long been known as anti-Axis and was jubilant over the military coup d'état in Belgrade. As the crisis developed, Mr. Fotitch, conferred frequently with Sumner Welles, Under-Secretary of State, who appears in the picture merely as an official carrying out White House diplomatic policy.

According to what is now being said, many key State Department officials and War Department officials were not consulted and privately may have been dubious over the program. In any event, according to the reports, Colonel Donovan had the ear of the President.

President Roosevelt today issued another proclamation under the Neutrality Act, formally declaring Germany and Italy to be at war with Yugoslavia. The proclamation stated that "Germany and Italy having wantonly attacked Yugoslavia, a state of war exists between Germany and Italy, on the one hand, and Yugoslavia on the other."

While the direct effect of this was formally to prevent only shipment of war supplies to Yugoslavia on American ships, upon which they could not be carried because the Mediterranean is a combat zone, the move was interpreted in some quarters to mean that American war supplies carried in any ships would be diverted from Yugoslavia.

Supporting this view was the fact that the proclamation was not issued until five days after Yugoslavia was attacked and not until Germany reportedly had cut off the main Yugoslav Army from Greek and British forces.

#### **AIR FIGHTING IN THE BALKANS**

The Battle of the Balkans will probably be decided in the air. Because the Italians hastily attacked Greece late in the year instead of in the Spring, their planes were of no great effect in dislodging Greeks from mountains wrapped in the storm clouds of Winter. Undoubtedly guided by their highly developed meteorological service, the Germans delayed their invasion of Greece and Yugoslavia until the Spring, contenting themselves for weeks with the possession of Bulgarian airfields which are within 150 miles of Salonika and 200 miles from the most distant points in Greece, and which must have been of great use in the invasion of Yugoslavia.

Since the fighting in the Balkans must take place largely in the mountains, German bombers will be called upon to keep open what valley roads there are, to destroy enemy mountain fastnesses and lines of supply. The fact that parachutists have landed behind the Greek, English and Yugoslav lines indicates that attempts will be made to transport men by air in small groups wherever they are needed—an expedient that succeeded in Poland, Norway and the Low Countries. Though the Germans outnumber their adversaries by a factor of at least ten and possibly fifteen to one, their success will depend largely on air superiority. Tanks and motorized units can be used only in the valleys.

The relative strengths of the German and Anglo-Greek-Yugoslav forces can be deduced, but not the relative strengths of the opposing air forces. How many planes have the Germans sent to the Balkan front? Probably all that they can spare without slackening their bombardment of British towns, and this may mean several thousand. How many have the British sent over from North Africa, and how many have the Greeks and Yugoslavs? Here there is no definite answer. There can be little question that the Germans have the upper hand in the air. This does not necessarily spell a quick victory. We have only to recall the success of the aerially outnumbered British in beating off German fighters and bombers soon after the retreat from Dunkerque. If there are enough British fighters to make the bombing of Greek and Yugoslav mountain strongholds difficult, time can be gained for aerial and other reinforcements from Great Britain. The crucial test of the Blitzkrieg will be made in the mountains. The case of Norway, which is also mountainous, furnishes no parallel. Norway was not defended for lack of an adequate air and ground force.

The British may well decide that the moment has come to bomb Rumanian oil fields which lie fairly close to the Bulgarian airports and which are furnishing fuel for German planes. If the Rumanian wells and refineries were destroyed, the German air force would be thrown back on home supplies, unless Soviet Russia comes to the rescue. On the other hand, oil tankers must supply the air forces of the Greeks, Yugoslavs and the British, which means that some parts must remain in Greek and Yugoslav hands.

(Editorial)

#### **TO HELP THE YUGOSLAVS**

When the "New Order" moved on Yugoslavia it at once created a new area of terrible human suffering.

Men, women and children who were going peaceably about their business two weeks ago are victims of a disaster deliberately and calculatingly produced. Some of them can be helped. An appeal issued in this city yesterday calls on Americans to give "material and spiritual evidence" of their admiration and sympathy for them. No new organization is necessary. Money can be contributed through local Red Cross chapters or sent to the American Red Cross in Washington. It will be "spent by the American Red Cross exclusively for Yugoslav relief purposes, in collaboration with the Yugoslav authorities and the Yugoslav Red Cross. Not one cent will be used for overhead." Whatever the outcome of the present battles, this money will be badly needed. Let all who can give try to imagine how it would seem to hear the bombers overhead, to see their homes in ruins, their families wounded, sick or hungry. The thought should open their pocket-books and their hearts to this new call for help.

(Editorial)

## THE TEXTS OF THE DAY'S COMMUNIQUE ON FIGHTING IN EUROPE AND AFRICA

### YUGOSLAV

*LONDON, April 11 (AP)—The Reuters news agency tonight reported the following Yugoslav high command communiqué from "somewhere in Yugoslavia."*

In the northern sector a superior enemy force reached the Sava River by way of Daruvar.

After the occupation of Jagodina the enemy continued to make progress toward Kragujevac, which also was occupied.

German troops entered Zagreb without resistance on the part of our troops.

In Albania, no events of importance.

### ITALIAN

*ROME, April 11 (AP)—The Italian High Command issued this communiqué today:*

On the Julian front [Northwest Yugoslavia] Longatico was occupied. Our action continues in the Sava and Ljubljana valleys.

In Albania, on the Eastern front, the advance of our troops in Yugoslav territory continues. There was nothing new on the Greek front.

Our air force at low altitude attacked enemy motor vehicles and positions in Yugoslavia.

Bomber squadrons hit port works and deposits at the naval base of Sebenico. Seaplane bases at Divulje and Slosella were again bombed and machine-gunned, starting fires which damaged four seaplanes. Military works at Ragusa also were hit.

### GERMAN

*BERLIN, April 11 (AP)—The German High Command's communiqué today follows:*

German troops under the command of Colonel General Baron von Weichs since the morning of April 10 have been continuing a successful advance southward after forcing the Drava River crossings despite difficult terrain and weather conditions.

As already announced in a special report, armored troops took the Croat capital in a swift thrust.

The forces that followed the enemy in close pursuit northwestward from Nish have crushed several divisions in fights in Central Serbia. They took more than 10,000 prisoners and captured seventy pieces of artillery and much other booty. Enemy forces fighting in Southern Serbia are destroyed.

One of the remaining strong fighting groups was partly wiped out and partly taken prisoner on April 10 near Krivolac by one German division.

The Air Force supported the army's advance. West of Zagreb transport trains were effectively bombed. Combat planes on April 9 scored bomb hits on five British motor fuel depots in the port of Piraeus and on four large transport ships.

Surrender of the Greek Army east of the Vardar River, which was forced to capitulate, is proceeding on schedule. The number of prisoners and amount of booty still cannot be estimated.

## RUSSIA REBUKES HUNGARY OVER YUGOSLAVIA

**Budapest Is Chided—Hungary Warned She Too Has Minorities That Might Split Her—Pact Held Violated—Nazi Envoy in Moscow to Go Home—Simovitch Reported Due There.**

(By the United Press)

*MOSCOW, April 12.—The Soviet Government tonight officially notified Hungary that the movement of Hungarian troops into Yugoslavia had created "a particularly bad impression" in Russia and could not receive Soviet approval.*

An official statement by Andrei Y. Vishinsky, Vice Commissar of Foreign Affairs, declared.

"It is not difficult to realize what would be the position of Hungary should she herself get into trouble and be torn to bits, since it is known that there are national minorities in Hungary, too." [One of these minorities is Russian.]

The statement was distributed by the official Russian news agency, Tass. It was given in response to representations made to Mr. Vishinsky by the Hungarian Minister to Russia, Joseph de Kristoffy.

It was also learned tonight that the German Ambassador, Count Friedrich von der Schulenberg, will leave for Berlin tomorrow, presumably to "consult and report" to his government.

[The German radio was quoted in an Associated Press dispatch from Berne as saying Premier Dusan Simovitch of Yugoslavia had left on a mission, presumably to Moscow. Berlin, according to The United Press, denied broadcasting this report.]

The Tass statement said:

"On April 12 the Hungarian Minister in the U. S. S. R., Kristoffy, called upon the Deputy Peoples Commissar for Foreign Affairs, Vishinsky, and on behalf of the Hungarian Government made a statement explaining the reasons that caused the Hungarian Government to introduce its troops into Yugoslav territory, and expressed hope that the Soviet Government would recognize the justness of Hungary's action."

*Reply by Vishinsky*

"Vishinsky gave the following reply to this statement:

"If this statement is made in order to invite the Soviet Government to express its opinion, I must state that the Soviet Government cannot approve such a step on the part of Hungary. A particularly bad impression is produced upon the Soviet Government by the fact that Hungary commenced a war against Yugoslavia but four months after she concluded with the latter a pact of eternal friendship.

"It is not difficult to realize what would be the position of Hungary should she herself get into trouble and be torn to bits, since it is known that there are national minorities in Hungary, too."

"The Minister promised to convey this statement of the government of the U. S. S. R. to his government."

The Soviet statement was the latest in a series of pronouncements by Russia that have disapproved Bulgaria's joining the Axis, reaffirmed friendship and non-aggressive intentions with Turkey and—on the eve of the German attack upon Yugoslavia—granted that State a pact of friendship and non-aggression.

The newspaper Trud, official trade union organ, gave prominence today to dispatches on Balkan operations paying tribute to Greek and Yugoslav resistance. The dispatches placed emphasis on the numerical and mechanical superiority of the Germans.

"Operations during the first few days do not yet permit a forecast of future developments," Trud said. "It is necessary to bear in mind that the rugged mountainous terrain is hampering the disposition of German forces. That may enable the Yugoslavs to undertake counter-measures."

### NAZI BLOW RECOILS

**British Armored Force Battles Axis Tanks on Bitolj Plain—R. A. F. Spreads Havoc—Bombs Vital Bases, Guns, Troops—Aegean Zone Also Is Contested.**

BY A. C. SEDGWICK

ATHENS, April 12.—An official spokesman declared tonight that in their first contact with German forces, consisting of tanks and all manner of armored vehicles, the Greeks had thrown back the Nazis with heavy losses. Italian troops, he said, had launched no fewer than three attacks against the Greek positions and all had failed.

[Dispatches reaching Sofia, in German-occupied Bulgaria, said British and German armored columns, supported by dive-bombers and fighter planes, were engaged in a "violent" battle in the plain between Bitolj, Yugoslavia, and Florina, Greece, according to Associated Press reports from Switzerland. The fierce struggle was said to be one of the first of its kind in this war, with completely armored forces maneuvering on a flat plain.]

Earlier, a General Headquarters bulletin had announced that Greek forces were in contact with German mechanized units in the Florina-Vanitza district.

Activity on the Albanian front was limited to patrol and artillery action, it was said. The snow is melting

in the fighting area and all low ground is muddy, offering conditions unfavorable for mechanized operations.

### *R. A. F. Spreads Havoc*

Despite the unfavorable weather in Southern Yugoslavia and Northern Greece, the Royal Air Force has been able to give a good account of itself and, according to official information, has played a big part in holding up the German advance. Thursday night eleven heavy British bombing planes attacked a troop concentration at Veles and Prilep, in Southern Yugoslavia, and Kilkis, in Northern Greece.

The British fliers saw a great white glare over the region after their bomb explosions, they reported. A large motorized German convoy moving in the darkness toward Kilkis from the north was machine-gunned. The crews of tanks and armored cars who managed to escape were said to have been thrown into utter confusion.

In the region of Galikos communications also were bombed, according to the R. A. F. statement, while another equally effective raid was carried out between Bitolj [Monastir] and Prilep, where tanks and lorries were set afire. An important bridge at Polykastron was destroyed, despite heavy resistance from Axis aircraft.

On Thursday there was still another attack on motor-transport convoys between Bitolj and Prilep, which possibly had even more sensational results than the other R. A. F. exploits. A British pilot, describing his experience on his return, said:

"Our bombs burst in the middle of a column. We saw tanks overturn and catch fire. Chaps were running like mad. We were so low that the blast of our bombs threw our aircraft all over the place. The column was in great confusion and we machine-gunned them after the bombing."

### *Bombs Destroy Tanks*

In the Bitolj area still another British formation bombed a motorized column, destroying five tanks and setting fire to vehicles, while bombs burst among others. Also, according to the R. A. F. statement, railroad tracks near by were hit twice.

From these several operations two British planes failed to return, though it is said the pilot of one landed safely behind the lines.

German planes were over the Athens area again last night. According to a Public Security Ministry communiqué, sixteen consecutive waves came over Piraeus and the adjoining district. The raid lasted four hours. This was followed by another raid lasting two and a half hours.

### NAZIS DOUBT HELP OF U. S. TO BALKANS

**See Victories Before Aid Can Arrive—Report Advance Is Continuing Steadily.**

BY C. BROOKS PETERS

BERLIN, April 12.—With the German armies in Yugoslavia still advancing and the capitulation of the defenders an imminent probability, according to German reports, chief interest in Berlin has already shifted to the impending major battle in the Grecian theatre of war between Germany and Anglo-Greek forces.



When the German offensive against the Anglo-Greek forces will begin remains a mystery. In military quarters it is believed that a slight pause may ensue while the Germans gather their forces and consolidate their positions in Greece before beginning the attack. Significantly today's German High Command mentions not a word about any activities that may have been undertaken yesterday by its forces there.

One thing is positive, it is said here. That is that neither the British nor Americans will have time to succor the existing Anglo-Greek forces in Greece. It is declared the British will not be able to bring up reinforcements from Ethiopia and the Americans will not be able to ship war materiel through the Red Sea before decisive action has been taken by the German forces.

In Yugoslavia the German advance appears to be proceeding steadily. Yesterday combined German and Italian units are reported to have begun clean-up operations in the Ljubljana Basin region. Northwest of Zagreb German Alpine troops and infantry divisions are said to have fought their way over difficult terrain and to have reached the Sava River at a number of different points.

Motorized units of the German forces operating out of Zagreb, meanwhile, are said by the German High Command to have advanced in a southeasterly direction from Zagreb and to have taken Karlovac. North of Zagreb the city of Varazdin, it is asserted, has been taken. German units advancing southward from Varazdin, the German High Command continued, took a Yugoslav brigade with its commander.

As a result of the rapid advance of the German forces, the General Headquarters communique declares, resistance in Croatia has broken down and the Yugoslav Army in the north is in the process of dissolution.

Belgrade, it is reported, is being approached from several sides. The forces attacking from Nish, the German High Command adds, have broken resistance after hard fighting. Some quarters in Berlin believe Belgrade will fall soon.

Hungarian troops have also begun an invasion of Yugoslavia, according to the High Command. Hungarian forces, it reports, crossed the Yugoslav border between the Drava and Tisza Rivers and advanced in a southerly direction.

The German air force assisted their comrades on the ground.

These air raids were carried on in North Bosnia and the sector between the Danube and Sava, it is reported. Railroad stations and transport trains in the same sector, the Germans add, also were bombed while dive bombers repeatedly attacked enemy troop concentrations west of Zagreb.

The action against Yugoslavia, according to military circles here, began with five attacks. Of the five pushes, two were considered major by the German High Command and had the objective of cutting the enemy forces into three parts, which, in spite of the difficult terrain, was accomplished in less than a week.

The first major push was from Bulgaria into the basin of Skoplje, where the Vardar was crossed and, as announced this morning, hands were joined with the Italian ally on the Albanian frontier.

The second major push had Salonika as its objective. It was decided to separate the Greek troops to the east of that city from the main body of the Greek Army and to free the German lines of communications to the south.

A third push was directed at Nish, which was captured. From Nish German troops are marching up the Morava Valley in a northwesterly direction and are now threatening Belgrade.

The fourth push was directed against the Metaxas Line on the Bulgarian-Greek border and led to the break through Xanthi to the Aegean Sea.

The fifth push led to the occupation of Zagreb and an advance to the south from the Croat capital.

German quarters stressed the devastating effects of German bomber attacks. These attacks, German quarters continue, disrupted communications, including those between various staff headquarters, shortly after the beginning of hostilities.

According to reports of German soldier war correspondents, the forcing of a passage across the border and the capture of Salonika took twenty hours.

The German press and semi-official German organs all expressed the hope that the British will not leave before meeting the Germans. Although strong British forces have been concentrated in Greece, the Germans declare they have not assisted their Greek or Yugoslav allies in the initial stages of the fighting. Judging from press reports, they add, the British forces appear to be preparing for a hasty departure.

This, the Germans add, is particularly astounding and is reminiscent of Norway and France.

"In Berlin it cannot really be imagined," writes Dienst aus Deutschland, "that England will again risk her prestige in the eyes of the entire world by a similar flight from the theatre of war."

#### GAINS IN NORTH YUGOSLAVIA

BERNE, Switzerland, April 12 (AP)—The Germans in North Yugoslavia were reported by the Hungarian news agency today to have occupied Osijek, Pozega and Gradiska in the eastern part of the Province of Croatia, and Bjelovar and Sisak in the western part.

Sisak is about thirty miles southeast of Zagreb. Gradiska, deepest point of penetration, is about forty miles from the Hungarian frontier.

#### HUNGARIANS TAKE THREE MORE TOWNS

**Dardo, Subotica and Sombor Are Reported Captured After Break Through Line—Croats Get An Air Force—Yugoslav Colonel and Planes Desert to Join the Military Units of Zagreb.**

BUDAPEST, Hungary, April 12—The first official mention of fighting between Hungarian and Yugoslav forces was made in today's two communiques of the Hungarian High Command.

"On April 11 in the Drava Triangle," says this morning's bulletin, "and on April 12 between the Danube and the Tisza Rivers our troops broke through the Yugoslav fortified lines at several points. The troops are continuing their advance."

The second communique, issued at 3 P. M., said that "our troops broke through the enemy line along



the whole frontier and by noon had occupied Dardo in the Drava Triangle and Subotica and Sombor between the Danube and Tisza Rivers. The advance continues."

The first contingent of Yugoslav war prisoners reached Pecs today. One wounded soldier died and was buried with military honors.

#### *Yugoslav Planes Attack*

Six Yugoslav airplanes attacked Kelebia, the Hungarian frontier station on the Budapest-Belgrade rail line, and according to the Hungarian report, machine-gunned civilians. One woman was seriously wounded, it is stated, and ten or twelve others hit by bullets.

It is reported that there were air-raid alarms in several places in Hungary yesterday, but no bombs were dropped. One multi-motored Yugoslav plane was observed flying over Transylvania, heading northeast.

The Budapest Stock Exchange had a boom today as a result of the news favorable to Hungary and most issues showed appreciable rises.

Ladislav Vartok, the Hungarian Consul at Zagreb, was appointed charge d'affaires accredited to the new Croat State. Hungary recognized an independent Croatia in 1918 and diplomatic envoy was sent to Zagreb.

### **YUGOSLAVS LAUNCH COUNTER-ATTACKS**

**Lines said to Be Holding While Drive at Skoplje Is Pushed—Nazi Losses Called Heavy.**

BY DANIEL T. BRIGHAM

BERNE, Switzerland, April 12.—While the situation in Southern Yugoslavia continues extremely grave, the first reports received here late this evening seem to give some ground for measured optimism.

North and northwest of the Skoplje region the Yugoslavs are reported to have launched a strong counter-attack twenty-four hours ago, which is increasing in momentum as it advances, smashing German opposition and driving the enemy back gradually along a long front stretching from Vrapcista northward around in a circle behind Skoplje to Presevo. Many tanks and much materiel have been destroyed and the casualties inflicted on the enemy are reported to be "extremely heavy."

The position in the Struga region, where the Italian and German forces were reported to have joined today, still remains confused. Late Yugoslav reports, however, stated that the contacts made between the two forces had consisted only of light motorcycle columns and that the line had been cut at frequent intervals during the day.

In Albania the Yugoslav advance continued against strengthened opposition from Tyrolean troops. Some prisoners were captured. No new points were mentioned as captured, but one report mentions a 5,500-foot peak in the Krabi Mountains as having been occupied.

In the northwest all indications pointed toward an orderly withdrawal by the Yugoslav Army, with nothing but rear-guard actions being fought.

BERNE, Switzerland, April 12 (AP).—Yugoslav resistance, dispatches from Sofia said today, continued bitter north of Zagreb, Croatian capital; south of Nish in the east, in the region near the Rumanian frontier and in mountains northwest of Tetovo.

### **SERB DEPUTIES ARE HOSTAGES**

BERNE, Switzerland, April 12.—According to information reaching here from Zagreb, Serb Deputies to the Yugoslav Parliament residing in Croatia have been arrested and will be held as hostages.

The new government at Zagreb today announced over the radio that Serbs living in Croatia would answer with their lives for the safety of Croats in Yugoslav-controlled territory. The government has also issued an appeal to German refugees to return to their homes.

The Croat regime has taken over power in Ragusa and Spalato.

Croat Nationalist leaders are reported to have left Italy en route for Zagreb. Colonel Fabian has been made Chief of the Croat General Staff. He was formerly head of the air service of the Fifth Yugoslav Army but left the front with his squadron and joined the Croats with material valued at 100,000,000 dinars.

Lieutenant Krenn has been appointed chief of the air force.

The government has ordered the people to collect war materiel and report it to the government.

### **YUGOSLAV ENVOY QUILTS SOFIA**

SOFIA, Bulgaria, April 12 (UP).—Vladimir Milonovitch, the Yugoslav Minister, was on his way to Moscow today, accompanied by the consul, the first secretary and the press attache of the legation.

It was reported they would go later to London and then, perhaps, to the United States. The Japanese were said to have refused to grant the diplomats transit visas.

### **YUGOSLAV KING WITH ARMY**

**17-Year-Old Peter Had Been Reported by Foes to Have Fled.**

LONDON, April 12 (UP).—King Peter of Yugoslavia is with his army, the Yugoslav Government advised the legation here by telegraph today.

Berlin and Rome had reported that 17-year-old King Peter had fled to Athens. Berlin said he was on his way to the British island of Cyprus, Rome that he was on his way to London. A German radio broadcast heard in Berne, Switzerland, yesterday said he was in Athens on his way to England.

### **SERBS SAID TO SLAY CROATS**

ROME, April 12 (UP).—The newspaper La Tribuna said in a report from Budapest today that after proclamation this week of a Croatian State at Zagreb Serbs began "wholesale slaughter" of Croats residing in Serb territory.

"In Sarajevo, scene of the assassination that started the World War, 100 Croats were lined up in a square and machine-gunned by Simovitch troops," La Tribuna said.

General Dusan T. Simovitch is the Yugoslav Premier and commander of Yugoslav and armed forces.

"At Sebenico a battle occurred between Croat sailors and Serbian police while at many places in Serbia Croats were tortured and killed," the newspaper said.

### HUNGARIAN TROOPS FIGHT YUGOSLAVS

**Drive Is Seen as a Prelude to Taking Over Seized Areas Into Enlarging State—Units March on Subotica—Budapest Offers Best Wishes to New Croat Government—Szeged Has Air Alarms.**

BUDAPEST, Hungary (Saturday) April 12—Hungarian troops began moving into the triangle of Yugoslav territory formed by the Danube and Tisza Rivers and the Hungarian frontier yesterday morning. Since the High Command communique telling of the action speaks of the Magyar forces crossing the "Trianon frontier," this military occupation would seem to be a prelude to incorporation of the region in the growing Hungarian State.

The first General Headquarters communique regarding events in Yugoslavia was issued during the night. It said:

"Our troops have reached their planned objectives despite stubborn resistance in certain parts of the front."

According to private reports, the Hungarian troops set out from Szeged and reached Horgos at 11 A. M. yesterday and proceeded toward Subotica. In the Murakoz, the region between the Mura and Drava Rivers, the Hungarian troops are also advancing.

It is pointed out in political circles in connection with this move that Hungary has done everything she could to keep out of the war that has reached her borders. Being conscious of her just cause, Hungarian officials state, she has awaited with the utmost self-control for her justified claims to be fulfilled when a general settlement of European problems is made.

It is stated that Hungary, when she signed the treaty of friendship and nonaggression with Yugoslavia, in no way renounced her historical claims, which no Hungarian Government dared to give up.

Hungary has no controversy with the national ambitions of the Croats, according to opinion here.

After the World War in 1918, it is pointed out, Hungary had acknowledged Croat independence. It is announced in this connection that Hungary has instructed her consul in Zagreb to express this country's best wishes to the new independent Croat Government.

The territory that Hungarian troops began occupying today measures about 21,000 square kilometers (about 8,000 square miles) and has a population of well over 1,000,000. Of this, the Bacza region is especially valuable. This is the land around Subotica and has already been called the granary of Hungary, because of the great fertility of the soil.

Martial law has been extended to include murder and burglary during blackouts.

Szeged had two short air raid alarms today, Yugoslav aircraft having appeared over the city. It is

stated that the Hungarian aerial defenses forced them to turn back.

### YUGOSLAV STRENGTH SHOWN

BY DANIEL T. BRIGHAM

BERNE, Switzerland (Saturday), April 12.—While the Germans were making large, if unimportant, advances in north and east of Yugoslavia yesterday, information contained in the communiqués of three high commands—British, Yugoslav and Greek—late last evening presented a somewhat more hopeful picture of the general military situation in South Serbia.

West of Skoplje a heavy Yugoslav counter-attack is reported as having successfully parried the German threat down the Tetovo Valley and prevented, at least for the movement, a threatened junction with the Italian forces, while northwest of Skoplje at Kachanik Pass in the Lepena Valley the German advance had been halted and, according to last-minute reports, appeared faltering in the face of strong Yugoslav opposition.

Though land fighting naturally held the center of interest, intensive aerial activity on the part of the Greek, British and Yugoslav air forces undoubtedly played a large part in the steadying of the Allied positions. British planes continually attacked the region of Bitolj, inflicting severe losses on the German column both in men and materiel. Meantime Greek and Yugoslav air forces intervening at other points on the front considerably aided in bringing about the dramatic change in what seemed a hopeless situation.

Yugoslav Premier General Dusan Simovitch, broadcasting to the nation last evening, reaffirmed his confidence in the outcome and announced that his troops were getting into position on the main battle lines. This was immediately confirmed so far as Italian forces were concerned, both on the Albanian and northwest fronts.

In the districts north and south of Skoplje strong drives by forces of the Third Yugoslav Army, pushing down from the crests of the Planina Mountains—the northwestern flank of the Tetova Valley—were reported to have cut the German lines twice in the last twenty-four hours, withdrawing each time before the enemy could reorganize to contain the attack.

These tactics were believed here to have been the cause of the Germans' change of plans in withdrawing their main column eastward from Tetovo to try a drive down the Tresko Valley toward Bitolj, south of which they have now encountered the British.

On the Southeastern Albanian front further Italian drives from Dibra in the general direction of Kicevo were contained with losses to the enemy, while Yugoslav pressure was exerted all down the right bank of the Drin River, which was crossed in still more places. Full details of the progress of the Albanian campaign, however, are still lacking.

In the northwest Italian attacks were "contained and thrown back in many places with severe loss to the enemy," the Yugoslav High Command said, adding: "More parachute troops were employed in today's operations on this sector but were either killed or captured." The German push southward down the Drava, Sava and Mura Rivers seems to have lost momentum, according to reports from Yugoslavia,

and these seemed also confirmed in the German High Command's own communique, which, referring to operations there, said merely that "west of Zagreb our aviation successfully bombed a transport train."

In the eastern frontier with Bulgaria, the German column pushing up from Nish met with little resistance in the Morava Valley and progressed beyond the town of Paracin northward toward Belgrade during the day. Its progress was not defined at a late hour this evening.

#### ADMIT LOSS OF KRAGUJEVAC

LONDON (Saturday), April 12 (AP)—Reuters, the British news agency, early today quoted a Yugoslav High Command communique from "Somewhere in Yugoslavia" to the effect that German troops on the central front had occupied Kragujevac, sixty miles south of Belgrade.

In the north the German troops reached the River Sava and also entered Zagreb without meeting resistance, the communique said.

A little earlier the Yugoslav Premier, General Dusan Simovitch, broadcast encouragement to his soldiers from his headquarters.

"Our troops are concentrating on main battle lines to check the enemy's advance," he said. "Germany's early successes cannot discourage us. Though the present situation is difficult, I believe the justice of our cause, the bravery of our army and the help of our powerful allies will assure us victory."

The High Command acknowledged that the Germans had reached the Sava River by way of Daruvar, about fifty miles north of Brod. Just where the Germans reached the river was not reported.

There were no important events in Albania, the communique said.

#### STRUGGLE IN ALBANIA

LONDON, April 11 (UP).—Violent fighting in Southwestern Yugoslavia, in which Yugoslav and British forces were struggling with Nazi divisions for a foothold in Northern Albania, was reported in reliable Yugoslav quarters here tonight.

In the north, the Germans apparently had captured Belgrade, the battered capital, but in the southwest the Yugoslavs reported fierce resistance to Germany's armored divisions.

Information here was that Yugoslav forces that crossed the River Drin, northwest of Alesio in Northern Albania, were menacing the important Albanian harbor of Scutari. They were reported to have encircled Scutari, although it had not yet been captured, and to be hammering at both its natural and artificial fortifications.

Fresh Yugoslav divisions, aided by the British Royal Air Force, opened a counter-offensive against the German drive southwest of Prilep, sixty miles from the Albanian border. German mechanized units to the northwest were racing the southbound Yugoslavs for control of Scutari and Northern Albania, with the fate of the Italian forces in Albania depending on the outcome.

The German main effort was concentrated on saving the threatened Italian positions in Albania, while

the hard-pressed Yugoslavs were trying to keep open a route of retreat along which they could join the Anglo-Greek forces in Southern Albania. The odds appeared to favor the Germans, who were pushing westwards from Prizren, Tetovo and Prilep.

According to Yugoslav sources, the Germans have thrown into their Yugoslav attack, and to a lesser extent into Greece, "all their mechanized divisions except those in North Africa."

In the sector farther to the east in mid-Yugoslavia, the German forces were reported advancing northward from Nish and attacking Krusevac, where a big Yugoslav arsenal is located.

The latest Yugoslav reports received in London were that German mechanized units had reached the gates of Belgrade, and it was believed possible they already had entered the capital. This report was strengthened by a broadcast of the Budapest radio, which said the German Army entered Belgrade last night.

#### REPORTS JUNCTION PREVENTED

ATHENS, Greece, April 11 (AP).—The Athens radio declared that Yugoslav troops fighting northwest of Skoplje had prevented the Germans from joining Italian soldiers on the Albanian-Yugoslav frontier.

[Rome radio earlier reported that Italian troops had occupied Ochrida, Yugoslavia, and had made their first contact with the Germans. Athens radio did not say just where the Italian-German junction was prevented.]

Two Yugoslav armies are marching from Northern Yugoslavia toward the south, Athens radio added.

Refugees arriving here from Yugoslavia said that the Yugoslav forces fought valiantly, inflicting terrific losses on the invaders and suffering heavy casualties themselves, but that they had been unprepared for the violent Nazi attack in the Strumica region, between the Struma and Vardar River valleys.

They quoted Yugoslav generals as attributing the defeat mainly to a breakdown in communications, which left many units struggling in the dark, without knowledge of the movements of other units.

#### GERMANS ASSAIL OUR BALKAN ROLE

##### Put Blame for Events In Yugoslavia on U. S. "Plotters"

BERLIN, April 12—Popular reaction in Germany to the military developments in the Balkans reflects none of the wild jubilation unloosed by the British retreat from Dunkerque or the dramatic surrender of the French Army last Summer.

Reichsfuehrer Hitler has eulogized the German soldier as the best in the world and the verdict has been made unanimous by the German people. After past performances nothing less than an invasion of Britain could make the welkin reverberate with even louder acclaim.

The press, on the other hand, is given over to a discussion, politically and militarily, of the implications of impending military decisions in Southeastern Europe. The kernel of these discussions may be discovered in conclusions reached about the diplomatic and political activity that preceded the outbreak of hostilities.

Anglo-American diplomatic "plotting" and "meddling" in the Balkans are subjected to a scrutiny even more vindictive than that leveled at Britain in connection with the invasion of Norway a year ago. United States diplomacy, a section of the press charges, betrayed and sold out Yugoslavia and now prepares to lead Greece to the slaughtering pen, after having cajoled both into resisting Germany with the promise of aid.

#### *Hostility to United States Rises*

The week-end has revealed a decided increase in the hostile tenor of press comments on American diplomacy in the Balkans.

According to authoritative quarters, Herr Hitler sincerely desired a peaceful understanding with the Belgrade regime. That his desire was reciprocated was demonstrated in the German view, by the incognito visit of Prince Paul, the Yugoslav Regent, to Berchtesgaden and earlier contacts with Yugoslav statesmen prior to the conferences in Vienna.

The Axis powers laid their cards on the table when negotiating with Yugoslavia, it is held here. Belgrade's acceptance of the conditions of the three-power pact, it is asserted, was predicated on recognition of her sovereignty and territorial integrity, which were guaranteed by the Axis powers.

The argument then runs as follows. No demand was made on Belgrade for permission to dispatch troops through Yugoslav territory, nor was Yugoslavia expected to contribute military aid during the war; at its conclusion she was to receive an important strategic port on the Aegean Sea; what the Axis powers did demand in return was her loyal collaboration in the building of the "new order" in Europe and co-operation with her neighbors in preventing the spread of the war.

Any popular reaction to the current military events takes this political and diplomatic prelude to the outbreak of war in the Balkans into its reckoning, and the eventual repudiation of Yugoslavia's signature and the commitments accepted at Vienna came as a bolt out of the blue.

It can be accepted by the German public only as an unprecedented affront to Adolf Hitler personally, and a studied and premeditated challenge to the prestige of a major power like Germany. As such it calls for atonement. It must also be recognized, it is held here, that the Axis powers could not, in the interests of their own security and prestige, as well as that of Europe, tolerate a regime that preferred a policy of hostility to the maintenance of "neighborly relations."

When the Yugoslav military leaders staged their coup on March 21 there was no longer any doubt here as to the inevitable trend of events. Herr Hitler carefully followed the course of United States and British diplomatic activities in Belgrade. As viewed in retrospect, those activities would seem to have accelerated his decision to abandon hopes for an amicable understanding with the new government, German quarters suggest.

#### *Donovan Attacked*

No small measure of responsibility for the disaster that now has apparently overwhelmed Yugoslavia and probably awaits Greece is saddled by the German

press on United States diplomats, and especially on Colonel William J. Donovan, unofficial United States envoy in the Balkans.

The Colonel has been accused in German reports from Belgrade of having plotted the removal of the Prince Regent with the aid of the Yugoslav officers who ousted Premier Dragisha Cvetkovitch and Foreign Minister Alexander Cincar-Markovitch within forty-eight hours after they had pledged Yugoslavia's adhesion to the Three-Power Pact. In the course of his "military negotiations" with General Dusan Simovitch, it is charged, Colonel Donovan also aided and abetted the Yugoslav opposition to a rapprochement with the Axis powers.

Mr. Horsey arrived in Belgrade shortly before the bombing. He crossed into Yugoslavia just before the German attack, one of the last persons to enter the country. He had received orders last Saturday to go to Belgrade and left Budapest on Saturday night on the last train. He walked across the border on Sunday morning a few hours before the "Blitz" was unleashed and proceeded to the Belgrade Legation by automobile, arriving just before the German aerial bombardment became heaviest.

Mr. Horsey returned to Hungary by automobile, crossing the lines to Szeged, on the Hungarian-Yugoslav frontier, where the Hungarians provided him with an automobile which brought him back to Budapest.

He reported that railroad lines in Upper Yugoslavia had been blown up at several points.

#### **HOME OF U. S. ENVOY IN BELGRADE RAZED**

**Legation Offices Intact and Ambassador Lane and Staff Safe, Washington Learns—City Services Disrupted—American Aide Says Streets of Yugoslav Capital Were Littered With Bodies.**

WASHINGTON, April 12.—The residence in Belgrade of Arthur Bliss Lane, the United States Minister, has been "virtually destroyed" but the legation offices and consulates are still intact, according to a message received by the State Department today from a member of the legation staff in Yugoslavia.

The report, which was dispatched late yesterday afternoon, said that all members of the Belgrade Legation staff, together with their families, were safe in Belgrade. It added that Robert B. Macatee, First Secretary of the Legation, was with the Yugoslav Government "somewhere in Yugoslavia," and that Colonel Louis J. Fortier, the Military Attache, was absent from Belgrade accompanying the Yugoslav military authorities.

#### *Athens Aide Also Safe*

Cavendish W. Cannon, Third Secretary of the United States Legation at Athens, and Mrs. Cannon, who had been on their way to the United States, were said to be safe in Belgrade.

This was the first report received from the legation staff since Mr. Lane sent a brief message by a circuitous route from an undisclosed place in Yugoslavia soon after the invasion began. He said that he was endeavoring to follow the Yugoslav Government.

The fact that no mention was made of him in the report today as being away from Belgrade prompted

a surmise that he might have been unable to join the government and was still in the capital. However, the message contained no definite information on this point.

### HORSEY CONFIRMS REPORT

BUDAPEST, Hungary, April 12 (UP) —Members of the United States Legation staff in Belgrade are safe, Outerbridge Horsey, United States Vice Consul in Budapest, said today upon his arrival here from a trip to Belgrade.

An estimate of Belgrade casualties was impossible, Mr. Horsey reported, but he believed they were heavy and he said that most of the city's public services were disrupted.

Unmoved bodies littered the streets as recently as yesterday, he said. Heavy damage was inflicted on the downtown Belgrade railway station.

### BALKAN DEVELOPMENTS REACT ON WASHINGTON

**Fear Felt in Administration Circles That Bad News May Weaken Public Support of Aid-Britain Policy—Future Nazi Blows Studied.**

BY ARTHUR KROCK

WASHINGTON, April 12.—The Administration was surprised by the rapidity and effectiveness of the Nazi military thrust in the Balkans. The result of it has been to reduce the official thermometer to almost the degree it registered in the period of Dunkerque and the collapse of France. Another effect has been to evoke fear that, stimulated by the isolationists and more bad news that is expected from Europe, the Administration's basic foreign policy may lose a measure of public support.

This report is a true one. This correspondent has taken every means to verify it before rendering it.

The President and his aides have based their foreign defense policy on these beliefs: Great Britain's Navy and Empire are our first line of national security. If sufficient assistance can be given to the British in time, war will be kept out of the Western Hemisphere and surely out of North America. The lease-lend legislation will make it possible to supply that assistance in time and in sufficient volume. British resistance meanwhile will keep the situation reasonably favorable so that American public opinion will support all steps necessary to be taken for eventual success of the policy.

That is the concept. The great British naval victories in the Mediterranean, and the rout of the Italians in Africa increased the Administration's confidence that public psychology would uphold policy developments. Now that confidence has been shaken by recent events.

One of the recent events is the rapid and powerful Nazi drive in Yugoslavia and Greece which has driven back and scattered the armies of the former, cut off a large force of the latter and put in front of the Germans a small British expeditionary army with its back to the sea. Another is the German-led reconquest of Libya with its threat to Egypt and the Suez Canal; and there is also the uprising in Iraq.

### *Hope in Yugoslavia*

The United States Government seems to have been better prepared for bad news from Libya than were the British. Reports reaching here some time ago were that the Germans had landed in North Africa in far larger numbers than the British seemed willing to concede. But great hopes were placed in the resistance of the Yugoslavs, and it was because of these hopes that the Government so vigorously encouraged that nation to resist Axis demands.

The hopes arose from independent American surveys such as that made by Colonel William J. Donovan, from British expert opinion, and from the testimony of the Yugoslav Minister to Washington. The consensus of the surveys and opinion was that the Yugoslavs would fall back to their difficult mountain country, engage the Germans for a period, knock the Italians out of Albania and give Hitler his second great problem of the war, the first being the invasion of Britain.

But once more the Nazi air arm and ground machines upset the expectations, prevented the Yugoslavs from making their protracted stand, isolated a Greek Army and fronted the B. E. F. with a huge Nazi military force.

This series of events was disturbing. But what is making the Administration more anxious is its possible impact in the near future on the policy of Turkey and Soviet Russia, on the hopes of the Japanese to aggrandize in a favorable season, on Latin America, and finally on American public opinion toward a policy which has suffered reverses.

### *Possibilities for the Future*

As officials study the maps their fears are not lessened. There are many optimists in the government who hope for a change in the situation. But responsible officials must be realistic. And so they concede the possibility that there may come a fight for Egypt and Gibraltar against heavy odds, with greater pressure on Spain from the Axis, a Nazi thrust to the Dakar country, which bulges out close to South America; and moves by Russia and Turkey closer to the Axis orbit.

This would be the worst possible set of developments aside from a successful invasion of the British Isles. But it should be emphasized that it is being thought of as a possibility and not a probability at all. However, it must be taken into consideration by policy makers, now that the Balkan plan of strategy has been badly damaged and the Nazi columns are advancing toward the Suez.

Should all or a good deal of this happen, Washington is asking, what will be the effect on the American people. Will the President find that strength behind him which he requires to expand as may be necessary his policy of all-out aid? Or will the people, addressed by the articulate group which has always opposed this policy and urged concentration on hemisphere defense as a first-line theory, restrict steps to a point where they cannot be as effective as the situation may require?

Some officials even fear that if Hitler should win such a succession of victories, the Russians take the Turks with them to cover, the Japanese gain courage from the prospect and sections of Latin America move to dissociate themselves from United States policy,

the Nazis will speak reassuring words which will bring a drive against the domestic defense program. This is not general, chief anxiety being concerned with the effect of continuing bad news on the policy of all-out aid. But it must be mentioned in a factual report

#### *Moves By the President*

It was with all possibilities in mind—defense requirements near home as well as British necessities—that the President moved so rapidly and vigorously this week. The protectorate established over Greenland is not only a fort against any enemy who plans to invade North America, it is also a facility which could be effectively used for air and sea naval escorts of supply ships. The opening of the Red Sea areas contiguous to Egypt and the Suez Canal was for the purpose of furnishing a supply-duct to the British in that part of the world, to the Greeks, and to a Yugoslav Army that might be fighting on alien soil.

The latter move is complicated by the fact that the Germans have already been able to place magnetic mines about the northern entrance of Suez, where shipping is held up although the canal is still open. If the Nazi push to the Aegean continues, and especially if Moscow and Ankara are frightened into a more submissive attitude toward Berlin, the Germans can mine more areas and thus to some extent counter the Red Sea opening. If the Japanese should then decide to "cooperate," supply ships could be cut off in the Indian Ocean.

#### *Blackest Side of Picture*

This is the blackest side of the picture of the future, and it must be reiterated that the large official and expert majority here does not envisage such a series of calamities. But the surprise and disappointment over the Yugoslav reverse have been great, and the concern over the effect on public opinion is very real. Had the German success been in any way expected the American pressure on Belgrade would have been differently exerted.

Of course, should the tide turn, and the surveys of Balkan prospects prove right in the end, tension will relax, anxiety will disappear, and Colonel Donovan and the British military intelligence group will again be the heroes they became when a popular uprising against the Axis treaty chased Prince Paul from Belgrade.

#### **BULGARIA TO CELEBRATE TODAY**

SOFIA, Bulgaria, April 12—National manifestations of gratitude toward Germany for the liberation of Macedonia and Western Thrace, as well as other Bulgarian lands, will take place throughout the country tomorrow.

Patriotic students, Macedonian and Thracian refugees, numbering in all an expected 100,000 will march to the German and Italian Legations and pass through the Royal Palace yard, where King Boris will receive the ovations of the crowd.

The streets are lavishly decorated with German, Italian and Bulgarian flags and the day is expected to be a festive occasion.

#### **PRESS SURE OF MACEDONIA**

SOFIA, Bulgaria, April 12 (AP).—The inclusion of Macedonia, most of which was ceded to Serbia and Greece after the 1912-13 Balkan War, in greater Bulgaria was foreshadowed today in the press as a result of German military victories and settlement of a long-standing disagreement between two branches of a Macedonian revolutionary organization.

One branch, which previously advocated an independent Macedonian State, accepted yesterday the program of the other branch, which called for inclusion of Macedonia as part of Bulgaria.

#### **RUMANIAN THRUST AT YUGOSLAVS SEEN**

**Hint of "Protective" Move Is Found in Border Activity—Hungarian Clash Possible—Reich Plans to End State—Swiss Hear Hitler Aims to Keep Adriatic Port—Italy, Bulgaria Would Get Slices.**

BERNE, Switzerland, April 12—Further Balkan diplomatic developments were expected in diplomatic quarters here after receipt of reports today of an angrier tone in the Rumanian press regarding the "oppression" of the Rumanian minority in Serbia and comments on Rumanian "rights" to the Serbian Banat.

In view of the recent calling up of reservists in Rumania and the strengthening of the border garrisons along the Yugoslav frontier it is said that yet another "protective" army is on the eve of marching into "defunct Yugoslavia."

Particular interest is attached to the potentialities of a possible clash between the Hungarian and Rumanian forces in this case should one or the other attempt to cross the Tisza River. In the confusing welter of claims to "thousand-year frontiers" and "ethnological rights" one finds much overlapping; as long as that overlapping remains on paper all well and good but it is believed to be fraught with possibilities should the armies of two "friendly" nations like Hungary and Rumania start overlapping with their forces.

It will be recalled that Rumania lost one of her richest regions—Transylvania—to Hungary by a Vienna award and has never ceased, in one form or another, announcing her intention of "one day" getting that region back.

Under the Tripartite pact Rumania and Hungary are allies and—technically speaking—friends. Rumania, however, was a status quo advocate when this war started and when Balkan blood boils pacts are apt to be relegated to the background as is witnessed by Hungary's "eternal friendship" signature on a pact her government initiated with Yugoslavia last November.

#### *Yugoslavia to Disappear*

Tomorrow "spontaneous" demonstrations are due to break out in Bulgaria over the "liberation" of Thrace and Macedonia by the German forces.

An inkling of Herr Hitler's intentions as to the future of Yugoslavia received in diplomatic quarters here tonight, however, calls for the creation of, first, an independent Croat State under German tutelage—which would give Germany an outlet to the Adriatic; second, the cession of parts of Slovenia to Hungary and the others to his independent protectorate of



Croatia; third, cession of parts of Herzegovina to Albania, which will remain under Italian protection; fourth, the reduction of the pre-World War Serbian State's frontiers, but allowing that State to continue under an "authoritative" government; fifth, the creation of an autonomous Macedonian State of those parts of Macedonia belonging to Greece and Yugoslavia, which will be under the joint protectorate of Germany, Italy and possibly Bulgaria.

Greece, when it is conquered, will be allowed to continue in a much-reduced area on the Hellenic Peninsula, diplomatic reports declare.

### ITALIANS REPORTED IN SLOVENE CAPITAL

**Drive Down Sava Valley in North Yugoslavia to Join the Nazi Forces in Croatia—Port of Susak Is Taken—Rome Sees Forces in Albania Eased of Greek Threat and Free to Seize Dalmatia.**

BY CAMILLE M. CIANFARRA

ROME, April 12—Italian troops, advancing from Postumia in Northwestern Yugoslavia, have occupied Ljubljana, capital of Slovenia, says today's communique. This is the first important Yugoslav town that the Italians have taken.

[Ljubljana seems to have been first taken by the Germans on Thursday in the Nazi drive from the Austrian border into Croatia. The German communique yesterday indicated Yugoslav resistance south of a line between Ljubljana and Zagreb, about seventy miles to the east.]

In the same region the troops that occupied Krans on Wednesday took Jesenice, fifteen miles to the east in the Sava Valley near the German-Yugoslav border in the Sava Valley.

These Italian forces are reported moving down the Sava toward Zagreb to join the Germans in Croatia.

The occupation of Susak, which faces Fiume across the River Enso, took place peacefully after the Serbs had left the city, according to the Italian press.

These successes in the north of Yugoslavia have been overshadowed by the report that the Italians and Germans effected a junction at 3 P. M. yesterday at Ochrida, near the Yugoslav-Albanian border. This is declared to be a great strategic victory and symbolic of Axis solidarity.

#### *Mussolini Sees "Common Victory"*

To a telegram of greetings from Adolf Hitler to Premier Mussolini "in the moment when Italian and German units joined hands for the first time in the Yugoslav theater of war," the Italian Premier replied that the meeting "consecrates once more the union of our forces in the attainment of a common victory."

The Yugoslav and Greek armies are now apparently cut off from each other, and it is asserted here that the link established between the Axis forces has removed all possible doubt concerning the fate of the Italian troops in Albania. These were running the risk of being caught between the Yugoslavs and the Greeks.

As the Germans moving from Southern Yugoslavia are expected here to advance into the north of Greece, the Greek forces in the strip of Albanian territory running roughly from Pogradec to Koritza, will have no alternative but to fall back on Florina or more

probably Kastoria, according to the Italians. The Greeks' retreat will be necessary, it is said here, to avoid being surrounded by German units advancing on Florina.

Thus the elimination of the Greek threat in Eastern Albania will enable the Italian command, it is held, to concentrate more men on the Albanian-Yugoslav front in the south, so that an Italian drive along the Dalmatian coast is expected to be made soon.

#### *Italians' Advances Reported*

Two Italian divisions, the Arezzo and the Florence, with a regiment of Bersaglieri and a legion of Blackshirts, took part in the drive on Ochrida, according to the press. Crossing the mountain passes Alpine detachments first occupied Struga, three miles inside Yugoslav territory, and then marched on Ochrida, meeting the German troops.

Simultaneously, other Italian units moving presumably from Vigishti, a town on the Yugoslav border directly east of Tirana, advanced three miles into Yugoslav territory and took Dibra.

By this move the Italian eastern flank, covered by the German motorized units, seemse to be fairly well protected, it is held—a fact which will relieve a number of troops for operations up the Dalmatian coast.

The Italian press is attempting to use the reports of Axis successes in Yugoslavia and Greece for an anti-American campaign. Editorials assert that President Roosevelt is the man chiefly responsible for Yugoslavia's "tragic end." They declare Yugoslavia is being defeated and that this is a direct consequence of Mr. Roosevelt's foreign policy.

"Since Roosevelt is responsible not only before history but before the American people, he might as well record the first serious defeat of his European policy," says La Tribuna. "If the help he has promised to the enemies of the Axis appears merely as a ridiculous wish owing to the rapidity of events, his masonic and presumptuous attitude appears to be nothing more than a gigantic jest."

President Roosevelt and British Prime Minister Winston Churchill, according to Virginio Gayda, must either aid their Balkan allies with all the means they can muster in a last minute attempt to save them or withdraw as quickly as possible and "admit before the countries they have sacrificed their tremendous guilt."

"In this dilemma," he asserts, "are at stake the prestige, honesty and political sovereignty of the two Anglo-Saxon empires."

### THE TEXTS OF THE DAY'S COMMUNIQUE ON FIGHTING IN EUROPE AND AFRICA

#### GERMAN

BERLIN, April 12 (AP).—The German High Command issued this communique today:

German and Italian troops on April 11 began mopping up the Ljubljana Basin, Mountain troops and infantry divisions, after fights with Serbian groups in pathless Croatian mountain country, reached the Sava at several points northwest of Zagreb. Fast troops advanced via Zagreb to Karlovac.

Varazdin was taken. One Serbian brigade with its commander surrendered to German troops advancing from there southward.



Enemy resistance in Croatia collapsed under pressure of the overwhelming and rapid advance of German forces. The Serbian Northern Army is dissolving. Hungarian troops crossed the Yugoslav border southward between the Drava and Theiss [Tisza] Rivers.

German Army units are advancing from several sides toward Belgrade. In this operation troops from Nish have broken enemy resistance in hard fighting. German and Italian units joined hands north of Lake Ochrida, as already announced in a special report.

The air force, with units of Aviation General Loehr, yesterday was especially successful in the southeastern region. Barracks, hangars and ten parked planes were destroyed on several enemy airports of Northern Bosnia and in the Danube-Sava region. Bomb raids on rail stations and transport trains in the same region were effective. Stukas repeatedly bombed enemy troop concentrations west of Zagreb.

### ITALIAN

ROME, April 12 (AP).—The Italian High Command issued this communique today.

On the Julian front [Northwestern Yugoslavia, in the Julian Alps] we reached Jesenice in the Sava Valley, the Ziri Valley and Susak. Our columns, after cracking enemy defensive positions, occupied the city of Ljubljana yesterday afternoon. The advance continues.

In the vicinity of Zara and near Ughano our air formations bombed enemy defensive preparations and positions. At Divulje air base, which again was bombed, huge fires were started. Enemy troops and seaplanes at anchor were attacked with machine guns. Six seaplanes were set afire and two others sunk.

In Cherca Canal three enemy torpedo boats were attacked, one being sunk and another seriously damaged.

Italian troops from Albania, after bitter fighting, occupied Dibra and Ochrida, east of the lake of the same name, making contact with German troops coming from the east. Many prisoners and great quantities of arms and material were captured.

### YUGOSLAVS COUNTERATTACK

**Serbs Slow Nazis—Yugoslavs In Offensive at Five Points Report Gaining Territory—London Is Heartened—More Germans Said to Be Needed to Avoid War of Position.**

BY DANIEL T. BRIGHAM

BERNE, Switzerland, April 13.—While little of a concrete nature developed in the Yugoslav situation during the last twenty-four hours, the Yugoslavs' resistance is stiffening and at several points they have taken the offensive.

Their tardiness in reacting to the undeclared war that commenced shortly after 5 o'clock in the morning one week ago has been largely due to the incompleteness of their preparations.

In the Morava Valley between Nish and Kragujevac, Yugoslav forces, supported by their own planes and the British air force, are successfully harassing German columns that have advanced so far that their lines are in danger of being cut. In this sector a medium Yugoslav force drove the Germans back

from Kragujevac, which the Germans said they captured yesterday. About twenty miles farther south at Prokuplje the enemy was surrounded and many prisoners captured when the town fell.

### Big Hungarian Losses Seen

Fighting rear guard actions against the Hungarian forces, the Yugoslavs are taking a heavy toll for every foot of ground the Hungarians are taking. Yugoslav losses in this area are reported to be very small in men and materiel, whereas the toll taken by repeated arial bombardment of the Hungarian lines of communication is known from reconnaissance to be heavy.

As seen from here the German forces, after capitalizing on the fear value of their tremendous motorized columns for one whole week, are now forced to permit the Yugoslavs to open the second phase of the war. This phase, which may last another week, will consist mainly of guerrilla warfare, with German lines being menaced everywhere.

At the end of this second phase, unless Germany pours in much more man power and materiel than she appears to be prepared to do now, the German troops will be obliged to accept engagement on a fixed front. A war of position in the mountainous Drina region would be very costly for the attackers. Even if they succeed in forcing the issue the results cannot be considered conclusive. It is one thing to conquer the komitajis' territory; it is another to conquer the komitaji.

LONDON, April 13 (UP).—An authoritative British statement said the Yugoslavs, fighting in do-or-die units, had hurled the Germans back and recovered lost territory in five sectors from below Belgrade to the Greek frontier.

The Greek radio announced that the main Yugoslav forces from the north, breaking through German traps, had smashed into Central and Southern Serbia and that the Second and Fourth Yugoslav Armies "already are counter-attacking" after being reorganized.

With the Yugoslav forces reorganized, the Greek radio said, the Germans will find themselves faced with greater troubles in the narrow waistline of Yugoslavia between Bulgaria and Albania, hampering any direct assault southward on the Greek-British line.

Heavy battling between Yugoslav and German forces was reported around Nish. Northwest of Nish toward Belgrade the Germans have been cut off and isolated in two sectors, the Athens radio said. The break through the Germans' east-west lines was hailed in Athens as meaning that "the Yugoslavs will be able to resist for a long time."

Yugoslav guerrilla troops have disrupted and taken a heavy toll of the Germans in the Serbian mountains, it was authoritatively said here today. The counterattacks, entrapping one entire column of Nazi armored troops, were credited with slicing German lines of communication and staving off a full-force Nazi attack down through Bitolj Gorge upon the left flank of the British and Greek main line of defenses.

Yugoslavs were said to be sweeping down from the mountains in small forces and disrupting the German efforts to form a barrier across Yugoslavia. In the region of German-captured Nish, 110 miles south of

Belgrade, the Yugoslavs were said to be attacking on both sides of the Morava River, impeding the German push upon Belgrade from the Bulgarian frontier.

An entire German armored force was said to have been isolated at the mercy of the Yugoslav troops in the Topola region.

The Yugoslav troops, it was added, are holding the Kragujevac-Krusevac region along the Morava and Ibar Rivers, north of Nish. The town of Prokuplje, it was stated, has been recaptured by the Yugoslavs in heavy fighting and, farther south, German armored forces have been driven back to Suharjeka.

Yugoslav forces were reported to be pushing steadily southeastward through Kachanik Pass of the Kosovo Mountains south of Prishtina, in an effort to recapture the key Vardar Valley city of Skoplje. The city is the hub of German columns pushing eastward and southward toward the frontier of Italian Albania and down toward Bitolj Pass, Florina and the left wing of the British-Greek line.

British military quarters called the Yugoslav guerrilla successes "the most comforting news we have had from that front" since the collapse of the Yugoslav lines east of the Vardar which brought the German armored tide sweeping down into Salonika.

British military leaders, while cheered by the Yugoslav successes in Central Yugoslavia admitted that it was doubtful whether these independent successes could hold back more than a small part of the German thrust.

"However, the Yugoslav mountain troops have the terrain in their favor and Yugoslav fighters have proved to be among the best in the world," one authority said.

The Germans, it appears, are finding themselves faced with a series of independent units operating from no tactical or organized line but coming to grips with the Germans where they can and where conditions are in their favor.

Field Marshal Lord Milne, who commanded the Allies at Salonika when it was an Allied base in the World War, in *The Chronicle* blamed the Yugoslavs for wasting their forces in attacking the Italians in Albania instead of concentrating in the south along the Vardar.

He asserted that Kosterino Pass south of Strumitza and the narrow Doiran Gap could have been held without much difficulty.

"Indeed," he wrote, "it is difficult to understand why steps were not taken to prevent attack through this defile. This was the danger point of the Greek front and it was to secure their safety from just such an attack that the Yugoslavs obtained from Bulgaria at the Peace Conference a strip of territory covering the Strumitza Valley."

#### YUGOSLAV GAINS IN ALBANIA

ATHENS (Monday), April 14 (UP).—Yugoslav troops smashing into Albania and scattering Italian resistance were reported without confirmation early today to have driven to within about twenty miles of the Albanian capital of Tirana and the nearby Italian military port of Durazzo.

The Yugoslav thrust, by counter-attacking Serbian troop which yesterday were reported to have seized heights near Tirana, was said here to be aimed par-

ticularly upon Durazzo in an effort to entrap and cut off escape for the Fascist forces in Central Albania.

#### YUGOSLAV FORCES INTACT

ANKARA, Turkey, April 13 (AP)—A Yugoslav spokesman declared today that 95 per cent of the Serbian Army and the First and Fourth Croat Armies still were intact and fighting the Axis invaders.

#### REICH NOW CLAIMS FALL OF BELGRADE

22 Yugoslav Generals and 100 Cannon Reported Taken In Fighting Near Zagreb.

BY C BROOKS PETERS

BERLIN, April 13—German troops of the motorized group under the command of Col. Gen. Paul von Kleist began the occupation of Belgrade at 6:30 this morning, the High Command announced in a special communiqué.

There was not a single mention in today's communiqué of what, if any, military actions have been carried out by the German forces on the Greek front. The High Command reported merely that on the night of April 11 to 12 German bombers in an attack on the roads of Salamis sank an enemy vessel of 4,000 tons and hit four other "large" ships. Two storage tanks, one power plant and one mill in the harbor of Piraeus were "successfully" attacked, the German report continued, and one Hurricane was shot down.

On the same evening the German High Command declared other German bombers set fuel oil storage depots at the airport of Venezia on the island of Malta aflame.

Today, just one week after commencement of hostilities in the Balkans, the German armies operating in the Yugoslav Kingdom appeared from reports here to be rapidly completing the conquest of that country. Belgrade was captured early this morning by an attack from the south. Yesterday after noon, however, the Germans declare, a small group of men under the command of Captain von Kligenberg, all from the "Reich" Division of the Elite Guards, forced their way across the Danube and into the city from the north and raised the German flag on the German Legation there.

In the process of cleaning up operations in the Ljubljana area on the Yugoslav-Italian border, the Germans reported that a unit of their allied forces had occupied Laibach.

To the southeast of Laibach, in the territory about the Croatian capital of Zagreb, German forces were reported to be carrying out their movements according to plan. Near Karlovac, it was added, they established contact with the Italians.

In the Zagreb sector, the German High Command asserted, according to present reports from the front, twenty-two enemy generals, including two army commanders, 300 other officers and 12,000 men have been captured. In addition, the Germans added, some 100 cannon, 10 airplanes, considerable reserve of munitions and fuel oil, as well as a still unestimated quantity of infantry weapons and other war material, had been taken.

In South Serbia the advance was reported to have continued according to schedule, following the break-

ing of occasional resistance offered by the dispersed Serbian troop units

The German advance, it was said, was aided by the attacks with "greatest success" upon vital military objectives in the southeast "raum" by the air force. The German planes were said to have destroyed thirty-nine enemy airplanes on the ground and airfields in Bosnia and Herzegovina. About Belgrade they were reported to have destroyed transport and freight trains and to have dispersed marching columns of enemy troops

### BRITISH CLASHES REPORTED

BERLIN, April 13 (AP).—There were reports here today of new ground clashes between German and British troops in Greece, but the High Command shed no light on them.

Commenting on the Balkan situation, the commentary Dienst Aus Deutschland, which has close Foreign Office connections, declared:

"The air bombardments of Greek harbors undoubtedly are intended to open a southern offensive, to hit facilities for reinforcement and ways of retreat in Middle and Southern Greece."

The German view is that the British miscalculated the time element when they hoped to bring more troops from Ethiopia to Greece and import American supplies through the Red Sea.

These informants declared that the Axis forces, considering their backs more or less clear, are pushing southward along the new front.

### PARACHUTISTS AID HUNGARIANS' DRIVE

**Budapest Says the Occupation of the Drave Triangle Has Been Completed—Yugoslavs Blast Bridges—Rumania Hopes to Get Land Up to Tisza River, Sought at Versailles Conference.**

BUDAPEST, Hungary, April 13.—The occupation of the Drava triangle by Hungarian troops has been completed, according to today's General Staff communiqué. Fast mechanized troops have reached Novi Sad.

Parachutists occupied bridges far in advance of the main body of troops, according to the bulletin, and held them until the mechanized divisions arrived.

The Yugoslavs made attempts to hold up the Magyar Army by blowing up bridges. So far casualties have not been great, it is stated.

The streets of Budapest were gay with flags today in celebration of the reoccupation and the press is jubilant.

### 75 MILES INSIDE YUGOSLAVIA

BUDAPEST, Hungary, April 13 (UP).—The Hungarian Army, using parachute troops in its "protective" invasion of northern Yugoslavia, has occupied the triangle between the Drava and Tisza Rivers, the High Command reported today. The Hungarian troops are about seventy-five miles inside Yugoslavia.

Rumanian quarters asserted that if the Hungarians should occupy the Banat region between the Tisza and Danube Rivers just above Novi Sad the Germans might give the territory to Rumania. Hungarian au-

thorities said that Hungarian troops from the Szeged region had not crossed the Tisza River into Yugoslav Banat.

Rumania claimed Yugoslav Banat at Versailles because about 500,000 Rumanians live there. The Rumanians asked that the Tisza be made the Rumanian western boundary.

The Hungarian radio said that Hungarian military losses in the thrust into Yugoslavia were "slight" and that the Hungarian minority of the territory already occupied had voluntarily handed over all arms and war materials abandoned by the retreating Yugoslavs.

The Yugoslavs, in their retreat were said to have blown up highways but this failed to halt the Hungarian advance, due largely to the efficiency of the parachute troops.

A Yugoslav bomber was said to have made a forced landing in Hungary and its crew was arrested. Other Yugoslav planes carried out scouting flights along the border but only one small sector of Hungary territory was bombed Sunday.

### BREAK IN LINE REPORTED

BERLIN, April 13.—Hungarian troops are reported to have broken through the Yugoslav border fortifications north of Eszek as well as between the Danube and Tisza Rivers and to be advancing.

### DEAD IN BELGRADE 3,000, U. S. AIDE SAYS

**Horsey Describes "Silent City" After Bombing—50 Killed in Single Raid Shelter—Says Writers Are Safe—Budapest Vice Consul Names Americans He Saw Leaving With Official Groups.**

BUDAPEST, Hungary, April 13 (UP).—Belgrade was a silent city of rubble and death after waves of German dive-bombers savagely blasted the Yugoslav capital for four days, Outerbridge Horsey, United States vice consul at Budapest, said today.

Many of the city's 3,000 dead still lay in the streets. The power plant lay in ruins, and there was no light or water, ambulances could not operate in the crater-pocked streets, the vice consul said. Stupefied inhabitants did not venture from their cellars for days on end.

Mr. Horsey said he brought back one overwhelming impression of Belgrade—"a city of dead."

The Yugoslav Government divided and left Belgrade for different destinations, he said. British, Greek, Belgian and Netherland officials went with one group. The first secretary of the American Legation went with one group, while United States Minister Arthur Bliss Lane and the majority of his staff remained in the capital.

The railway station was "nothing but a shell," the beautiful opera house was in ruins and the downtown palace of King Peter showed the effects of several bomb hits, he said.

When the first bombs fell on what the Yugoslavs had proclaimed an "open city," thousands of inhabitants fled in panic to the country. But they filtered back to the capital during lulls after the first two days of bombing and many were killed when the Stukas zoomed back on "mop-up" attacks on Tuesday and Wednesday.

Between bombings the city was silent, as though in a stupor, and hardly a pedestrian appeared, he said.

The Belgrade radio announced last Tuesday that official lists showed 300 persons killed, Mr. Horsey reported, but he said the fatalities actually were closer to 3,000. American officials heard authentic stories of instances where more than fifty persons had been killed in a single air-raid shelter.

During his five days in Belgrade Mr. Horsey said he had been unable to meet Mr. Lane, who was forced to take refuge in the suburbs after his home was destroyed.

Fleeing peasants clawed at the windows of the legation automobile and begged for rides on the return journey, Mr. Horsey said. The diplomats loaded a woman and her children into the available space, then had to lock the automobile's doors.

One group of American correspondents, including Leon Kay of The United Press and Leigh White of The New York Post and Columbia Broadcasting System, went with the Yugoslav General Staff to an unknown destination in the direction of the coast, Mr. Horsey said. Another group went with another section of the government. They included Ray Brock of The New York Times and Robert St. John of The Associated Press.

Mr. Horsey said he saw Russell Hill of The New York Herald Tribune in Belgrade on Wednesday after the other correspondents had departed.

#### NAZI GENERAL'S CAPTURE REPORTED

ATHENS, April 14 (UP).—A German general has been captured by Serbian troops, along with many other Nazi prisoners, in heavy fighting south of Belgrade, the Greek radio said today.

#### CHURCHILL BROADCASTS SYMPATHY TO YUGO-SLAVS

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LONDON, April 13.—Prime Minister Winston Churchill tonight broadcast a message to the Yugoslavs saying that the "British Empire is fighting with you and behind us is the great democracy of the United States with its vast and ever-increasing resources."

He told the Yugoslavs that they had been attacked by a "ruthless, barbarous aggressor," adding:

"Your capital has been bombed, your women and children brutally murdered.

"Our cities in England, too, have been bombed by the same insensate foe. Our women and children have been murdered.

"Our sympathy for you, therefore is heartfelt, for we are sharing the same sufferings."

The British radio said last night in a statement recorded by the Columbia Broadcasting System that the Yugoslav Premier, General Dusan Simovitch, replied to Prime Minister Winston Churchill's broadcast with a declaration that Yugoslavs "do not entertain the idea of surrender."

#### GAINS IN DALMATIA CLAIMED BY ITALY

Penetration of 40 Miles Listed—Zengg and Otocac in North Are Occupied—Prisoners, Guns Seized—Communique Says 2 Generals and Several Thousand Men Were Taken in South.

ROME, April 13—On the Giulia front the Italians penetrated some forty miles along the Dalmatian coast, occupying Zengg and pushing up beyond Otocac to the southeast, it was reported here today. The report also said that in the Zara sector Benkovac was occupied, as well as the Island of Ugliano. Simultaneously, the Italian Army in northwest Yugoslavia was said to have effected a junction with German troops at Karlovac.

In Southern Yugoslavia, the communique said, the Italians continued their advance. While mopping up the territory around Lake Ochrida they seized, the communique added, "several thousand prisoners, notable quantities of arms and material and a few dozen guns. In the zone west of Ochrida, the Italian Alpine divisions took more than 1,000 prisoners, two generals and eighteen field batteries, the communique declared.

ROME, April 13 (UP).—The Italian advance into Yugoslavia is continuing, with Italian columns marching beyond Zengg on the Adriatic coast, nearly forty miles southeast of Fiume, the Italian High Command said today.

After capturing Zengg the same column overcame Yugoslav opposition at Otocac, about fifty miles southeast of Fiume, the High Command said.

The advance continued thereafter, it was claimed.

There was nothing of importance on the Greek front, the High Command reported.

Radio Rome, broadcasting the communique, claimed that Zengg and Otocac were taken by mechanized forces.

#### GIVES SERBS SMALL CHANCES

ZURICH, Switzerland, Monday, April 14 (UP).—The German radio admitted last night that Serbian troops "might perhaps still be able to extract some small tactical advantages" in Central and Southern Yugoslavia but asserted that total defeat for the Yugoslav forces was inevitable.

"The Serbian leaders neither learned anything from Hitler politically," the radio said, "nor did they learn from the Polish, Norwegian, French and British defeats.

"Just as it was impossible for the enemy to recover after the breakthrough of German tank units at Abbeville (on the French Channel coast) it now is certain that the Serbs are lost."

#### WHY YUGOSLAVIA FOUGHT

In answer to veiled charges that Yugoslavia chose to fight because of private promises of American intervention, Constantin Fotitch, the Yugoslav Minister here, points out in a letter printed elsewhere on this page that no "inside story" of this kind is needed to explain his country's action. Public pledges of American help to all countries resisting Axis aggression, he freely admits, could not help but be a factor in the

situation. But no promises of such help would have had any determining effect "if the Yugoslav people had not revolted against the unpopular policy of the former Regency." Yugoslavia's decision, in short, does not need any secret diplomatic explanation. No decision to fight has ever sprung more clearly from a deep-seated determination in the masses of a country's people.—(Editorial)

### **YUGOSLAV CHOICE SELF-MADE**

#### **Mr. Fotitch Says Sense of Honor, Not Promises, Prompted Nation's Sacrifice.**

To the Editor of the New York Times:

In the issue of The New York Times dated April 12, 1941, one of your correspondents states in an article entitled "Washington Glum Over Balkan War" that "the situation in the Balkans is increasingly being referred to in informed circles as a product in considerable part of American intervention with pledges of support if the Yugoslav Army would revolt, install a new regime and oppose the Axis. Britain went along with words of encouragement." It is stated further that the key figure in this activity of the American Government was Colonel William J. Donovan, that he had conferred with me before leaving on his trip, and that I had discussed the matter frequently with Mr. Sumner Welles, Under-Secretary of State.

There is no doubt that the moral support and the promise of material assistance by the United States, not only to Yugoslavia but to all countries which decided to resist the demands of the Axis, is a powerful factor in the course of events. But from the very beginning of the crisis which led to the formation of the present Yugoslav Government and to war with Germany and Italy the Yugoslav people and its political leaders had no doubt that the American Government and the powerful American nation would fully support the efforts of the Kingdom of Yugoslavia to defend its sovereignty after all its efforts to maintain peace and live on friendly terms with all its neighbors proved to be of no avail.

The feeling of affection and admiration which the Yugoslav people have for the United States is not of recent origin. It dates back to the days of the last World War, when the United States gave abundant help to Serbia, when the American Government was the first to recognize the new Serb, Croat and Slovene Kingdom, and when Italian occupation and annexation of Dalmatia were vigorously and effectively opposed by the United States. The conception of life and the political philosophy of the Yugoslav people are fundamentally the same as those prevailing in the United States, and it is this identity of views and aspirations which explains the Yugoslav faith in America and which accounts for the American determination to assist Yugoslavia in the present crisis. After the collapse of France, which had been a symbol of liberty for many decades, my nation saw in the United States and Great Britain the only hope for a better future and the only guarantee of security.

Colonel Donovan's friendship for Yugoslavia is well known and appreciated. But no matter what promises might have been made to Yugoslavia, I assure you that they would have had no determining effect if the Yugoslav people had not revolted against the un-

popular policy of the former Regency and the government of Mr. Cvetkovich. It is important to emphasize and keep in mind that the overthrow of the Regency originated among the masses of the people through nation-wide manifestations of opposition to the tripartite pact. In response to this expression of the national will the political leaders of the country, in co-operation with the heads of the army, created the new government. The revolt, thus, was not the result of a secret conspiracy of army generals. The policy of the new government to resist Nazi aggression was not imposed upon the people. On the contrary, it was adopted by the government in response to an irresistible demand of the Yugoslav nation. My people made this choice consciously. They knew both their friends and enemies. They accepted their destiny fully aware that by paying the gruesome price of sacrifice they are rendering a great service to the people of Great Britain and Greece, and assuring for themselves an honorable place in history. Is it not fair to give them credit for that much at least?

I may add, incidentally, that I had the pleasure of meeting Colonel Donovan for the first time in Washington on April 3 of this year.

Constantin Fotitch,  
Minister of Yugoslavia.

Washington, April 12, 1941.

### **FOTITCH DENIES YUGOSLAVS ACTED ON STRENGTH OF OUR AID PROMISES**

#### **Minister to U. S. Absolves Colonel Donovan—Declares Revolt Originated Among Masses Who Realized War Risks and Sacrifices.**

The revolt against the regency in Yugoslavia and the country's refusal to adhere to the tripartite pact, which resulted in war with the Nazis, "originated among the masses of the people" and were not inspired by any promises of aid made by Washington through the medium of Colonel William J. Donovan or otherwise, it was explained yesterday by Constantin Fotitch, Minister of Yugoslavia in Washington.

[Mr. Fotitch's denial that Washington induced his country to resist Nazi aggression is contained in a letter to the editor of The New York Times published in full on the editorial page of this issue.]

Incidentally, Mr. Fotitch explains that he "had the pleasure of meeting Colonel Donovan for the first time in Washington on April 3 of this year." In his letter Mr. Fotitch writes.

"There is no doubt that the moral support and the promise of material assistance by the United States, not only to Yugoslavia but to all countries which decided to resist the demands of the Axis, is a powerful factor in the course of events.

But from the very beginning of the crisis which led to the formation of the present Yugoslav Government and to war with Germany and Italy the Yugoslav people and its political leaders had no doubt that the American Government and the powerful American nation would fully support the efforts of the Kingdom of Yugoslavia to defend its sovereignty."

After citing the traditional friendship between the United States and Yugoslavia and the similarity of their political philosophy, the envoy declares;

"It is important to emphasize and keep in mind that the overthrow of the regency originated with the masses of the people through nationwide manifestations of opposition to the tripartite pact. In response to this expression of the national will, the political leaders of the country, in cooperation with the heads of the army, created the new government.

"The revolt, thus, was not the result of any secret conspiracy of army generals. My people made this choice consciously. They accepted their destiny fully aware that by paying the gruesome price of sacrifice they are rendering a great service to the people of Great Britain and Greece and assuring for themselves an honorable place in history."

## **YUGOSLAVS SMASH DRIVES OF GERMANS**

### **Claim Durazzo In Offensive Against the Italians While Breaking Up Nazi Moves.**

BY C L SULZBERGER

ATHENS, April 14.—The latest direct report from Yugoslavia asserted today that the German advance was being delayed on all sectors of the front, while simultaneously the desperately fighting Yugoslavs were managing to take the offensive in certain regions.

Advancing from Scutari and Alessio in Albania, one Yugoslav division managed to push through Central Albania as far as the old Via Egnata, whence it turned west, occupying one of Italy's principal Balkan ports, Durazzo, according to unconfirmed reports allegedly received direct from the army employed in this action.

At the same time one crack Yugoslav division annihilated an armored German unit south of Topola in the vicinity of the national monument where the Karageorgevitch Kings are entombed. Another Yugoslav army cut off in the northeast in the sector of the areas of Negotin, Zajecar and Rumanian Turnu Severin, was continuing to attack bravely and was counter-attacking to the southwest.

#### *Threat to Skoplje Reported*

[According to a report received this morning at Berne, Switzerland, massed Yugoslav divisions counter-attacked down the Tetovo Valley from the west, cutting off a column of German soldiers in the south and seriously threatening the operational base of Skoplje. This operation, it was said, seemed to be directed toward diverting some of the German forces from the Bitolj operations to allow the Anglo-Greek forces there to reform and reinforce their lines before the main German attack could start.]

There was no direct confirmation of the German claim that Belgrade had been occupied. It was known that one Yugoslav division was still fighting at the capital despite a mechanized onrush across the Batcka plains. Eventual abandonment of the ruined capital would not mean any strategical loss. The Yugoslavs were accomplishing an orderly withdrawal to the Sava defense lines from positions in the north, while it was apparent that in the east the Yugoslavs were assuming a line based on chains of mountains.

In the south the initial impact of the German offensive was believed checked. The Yugoslavs had begun

a counter-offensive against Skoplje but the results were not known. The Yugoslavs were still holding the northern exit of Kachanik Pass, where wave after wave of armored Nazi attacks had been thrown back into the river gorge, and eighty tanks had been destroyed.

Artillery had been drawn up above the tiny Moslem village of Stara Kachanik, and it was continually pounding the invaders, who were still seeking to penetrate toward the important Prizren road to Albania. Continual hand-to-hand fighting was going on and the tank onrush had been considerably hampered by the accuracy of the Yugoslav hand-grenade throwers stationed in the hills above the gorge.

The Yugoslavs were slowly withdrawing from the east toward the mountainous heart of the country based on Bosnia, and during combats in the region of Krusevac the retreating forces outflanked oncoming Germans and captured several officers, including a general.

The greatest immediate danger was from the Lake Ochrida region, where the Germans moved in early in the war after the tremendous and successful Strumitza offensive.

Local press reports published here stated the Yugoslavs were retaining new positions assumed in the regions of Kragujevac and Krusevac.

## **YUGOSLAVS PUSH DRIVE**

BERNE, Switzerland, April 14—From their natural defensive positions north of Skoplje and west of the Morava River the Yugoslavs during the past forty-eight hours have been throwing ever heavier counter-attacks at the German mechanized forces pushing from the northwest and south, according to reports received here late this evening.

In the region around Nish, Col. Gen. Paul von Kleist's German motorized columns were heavily attacked and in some cases driven back by isolated groups of Yugoslav mountain artillery. In the south, around Kachanik Pass, Yugoslav resistance had developed from the defensive to the offensive.

In Albania the Yugoslav advance continued. Reports circulating throughout the day that the Yugoslav Fifth Army had occupied Durazzo were scouted in conservative Yugoslav quarters here, which pointed to the continued disruption of communications between the different army corps and the outside world as a possible cause for the reports.

The latest authentic information on the Albanian situation referred to operations late Saturday afternoon, when Yugoslav forces, which had crossed the Drin River, were reported as having successfully occupied several strategic heights in the Scutari region, from which they threatened the Italo-German rear in the northeast. The Yugoslav forces were reported to be encountering little opposition from the German Tyrolean units recently arrived there, which led to the supposition that these forces were in the main concentrated on the southern line, taking over the Italian work of driving the Greeks from Albania.

The Italo-German drive to maintain a junction northwest of Lake Ochrida was reported arrested and seriously endangered Saturday afternoon. Many prisoners and much material were captured, though the



forces engaged by the Yugoslavs consisted chiefly of light motorized columns.

Attempts by the German and Italian air forces to destroy Yugoslav lines of communications in Albania were frustrated by the nature of the terrain. The effort was reported to have been extremely costly, the Germans and Italians having lost eight planes in one attack alone.

#### *Halt Threat to Kachanik*

Operating eastward from Kukius, a Yugoslav column successfully attacked and forced to retreat a small German salient that had pushed northwest from the Tetovo Valley toward Prizren in an endeavor to turn the Kachanik Pass. This attempt failed and a Yugoslav column was able to drive eastward to join the Kachanik defenders down the Ljubotan Valley.

Strong Yugoslav resistance continued east and west of the Kachanik Pass. The presence of this threatening force on their northern flank prevented the Germans from using Skoplje as a center of operations for further attacks southward and westward to engage the Greeks in Albania.

By holding the Kachanik Pass the Yugoslavs were also keeping open the excellent Kosovopolje rail and road line running north and south for the transport of troops along the inner line of the Drina massif, enabling them to threaten any German concentration that might break through their rapidly organizing first-line outposts along the Morava.

Along the Dalmatian coast and in the northwest Italian claims, describing outpost skirmishes as "strong engagements," were termed preposterous. The Yugoslav forces admitted withdrawals in the Croat area but said, first, that such withdrawals as were made had been made in good order and, second they had been made before overwhelmingly stronger German forces. It was pointed out that the Italian occupation of Ljubljana was claimed two days after the German arrival on the outskirts of Zagreb and that Yugoslav withdrawals from an untenable position enabled the Italian forces to enter the former town.

#### *Retire Before Hungarians*

In the Dunava plains the First Yugoslav Army, having stubbornly fought rear-guard actions back as far as Novi Sad against "protective" Hungarian forces entering the Baranyi triangle and other "historically Hungarian territories," were retreating southwestward to the northern limits of the Drina massif. Meanwhile the Hungarian soldiers who had arrived on the western banks of the Tisza appeared to be poised for another extension of their "protection" east of the river in "historically Rumanian territory."

Aerial activity over all fronts continued extremely intense throughout the day, despite particularly adverse weather. In the south the British and Yugoslav air forces were particularly active, bombing and machine-gunning German columns concentrating north of Bitolj Pass for their forthcoming offensive. Reports reaching here indicated that the pounding of these allied aerial attacks were beginning to tell on the Germans, isolated as they are at the end of extremely tenuous lines of communication.

On the southeast, British and Yugoslav bombers again attacked the German columns in the Vardar Valley and military objectives in Sofia and the Kjus-

tendil region. Rail Communication centers in Bulgaria were damaged, and north of Sofia a long ammunition and troop train was reported to have been set afire.

#### **HUNGARY TAKES BATCHKA AREA**

BUDAPEST, Hungary, April 14—A High Command communiqué issued at noon today reported that Hungarian troops had occupied the entire territory between the Danube and Tisza rivers, completing the re-annexation of the Batchka area. The advancing troops were reported to be encountering ambush attacks from Cetniks and Komitajis, who were also said to be attacking Magyar and German inhabitants. Energetic suppression of the activities of these guerrilla bands was reported to be in progress.

The Hungarian troops entering Subotica had a warm and enthusiastic reception, it is said. The Mayor, welcoming the Hungarian commander, is said to have asked him to safeguard the lives and property of the inhabitants. The commander told the Magyar population that the soil of Subotica would never again be trampled by foreign boots. In 1918, he continued, Hungary was not defeated militarily but collapsed because of internal disintegration and the activities of Free Masonry.

According to a report reaching here this evening, the Croat elements of the Yugoslav Armies have refused to fight.

#### **THREATEN BELGRADE SALONIKA LINE**

LONDON, Tuesday, April 15 (UP).—Yugoslav troops in two attacks south of Belgrade were threatening to cut the Belgrade-to-Salonika railroad, chief line of supply for German assaults on the eastern wing of the British-Greek front, an Ankara radio report said early today.

The Yugoslavs were said by the Columbia Broadcasting System correspondent in Ankara, Turkey, to have launched "successful" pincer attacks in the Topola area, about thirty-eight miles south of Belgrade, and at Barberin, in the Morava Valley. British military leaders were cheered by news of the successes of Yugoslav troops. In Albania, the Italian military port of Durazzo, twenty miles west of Tirana, was reported to have fallen to the Yugoslavs, who were pushing across the Drin River in the vicinity of Kukius, in Eastern Albania.

The Albanian capital of Tirana was said to be seriously threatened both from the east and west by Yugoslav troops, which already had pushed halfway across Albania from the north toward a junction with Greek troops pushing up the Adriatic Coast from the south upon Valona, the only real port of any consequence left to the Italians in Albania.

The Yugoslavs were attempting to drive down to the Western side of Lake Ochrida and join up with the Greek forces along the western anchor of the British-Greek line south of the Yugoslav frontier.

Valona was said to be under almost constant bombing attacks by British planes, which were also continuing to "cause confusion along enemy lines of communication, destroying vehicles and registering hits on roads," according to British communiqués.



On the Albanian front, the Greek radio said, there was "no particular activity," only patrol feelers. Italian planes flew over Greek lines in the Khimara sector and anti-aircraft guns brought down one Italian plane, the Greeks said.

British military authorities said there was "good reason to believe" that Durazzo had fallen to the Yugoslavs.

### DENIES FALL OF DURAZZO

ZURICH, Switzerland, April 14—The Italian radio tonight branded as "fantastic and groundless" reports abroad that Yugoslav troops had occupied the Italian military port of Durazzo on the Albanian Adriatic coast.

### SAYS BRIBE WAS REJECTED

#### Yugoslav Manifesto Asserts Nazis Offered Salonika.

VICHY, France, April 14—An official manifesto from the Yugoslavia Government's new war capital at Sarajevo asserted today that the bulk of the Yugoslav Army had fought its way out of a German steel ring of entrapment and "once again will astonish the world as it did in 1914 and 1918."

The manifesto, released by the Yugoslav legation in Vichy, revealed that Yugoslavia was invaded by the German war machine because "we would not be accomplices to a German attack through Bulgaria against Greek Salonika, which was promised us as the price of our complicity in a war of imperialistic rapine."

Germany also was said to have secretly promised the former pro-Axis Yugoslav Government that, if Yugoslavia would become the Reich's military ally, she would receive not only Salonika but "the whole of Bulgaria for eventual treason against the independence of the Balkan States."

#### *New Capital Is Sarajevo*

The manifesto said that the new Yugoslav capital had been set up in heavily-bombed Sarajevo, "birthplace" of the World War, because of the impossibility of defending the flat lands of Northern Yugoslavia and Belgrade itself.

The German radio reported today that Sarajevo was "in flames" after merciless aerial bombardment because it is a military objective.

The Sarajevo manifesto, as announced here, said that the Yugoslav armed forces numbered only thirty-two divisions, or perhaps 475,000 to 500,000 troops, against "the entire German Army, to which must be added the Italian and Hungarian Armies and the collaboration of Bulgaria."

"Despite the quick attack by Germany," it was stated, "which permitted the concentration of troops at pre-selected strategic points, the bulk of the Yugoslav Army has not been seriously dented and has succeeded in escaping the steel trap that Germany vainly attempted to throw around it."

"With no armored divisions and a small air force, the Yugoslav Army is stubbornly defending the nation's soil and Premier General (Dusan) Simovich's National Union Government assures the maintenance of the political and moral unity of the nation, which the insidious efforts of Yugoslav 'Quislings' never will weaken."

"Yugoslavia, fighting for her honor and independence against unjustified aggression, will by her heroic resistance once again astonish the world as it did in 1914 and 1918."

#### *Fight for Independence*

Asserting that Germany forced the war on Yugoslavia because the latter refused to join in an attack on Greece, the manifesto continued:

"In accordance with the sacred tradition of our ancestors, we preferred to expose ourselves to attack rather than collaborate in the burial of Balkan independence."

"The Bulgarians, on the other hand, preferred to become Germany's vassals and to lend their territory to the armies of the foreign invader. The majority of the Bulgarian people disapprove most certainly of this betrayal."

"It is, therefore, a war of defense and honor that Yugoslavia is obliged to wage at present as the standard-bearer of the independence of all Balkan peoples."

"Our government did not want this war. Nobody in Yugoslavia had any illusions as to the result of the eventual war with Germany. With a 3,000 kilometer (1,860-mile) frontier line and with the whole northern part of our country open in the region of the immense plains, Yugoslavia, despite her heroism, did not for a moment imagine that she would be able to hold out for a long time with her thirty-two divisions against the entire German Army, to which must be added the Italian and Hungarian Armies and the collaboration of Bulgaria."

"All that Yugoslavia wants at this moment is to offer honorable resistance and mark before history her position of honor and independence and to lighten by her resistance the position of her Greek and British allies in Greece who find themselves in a more favorable position."

"In Albania they have only an 80-kilometer (50-mile) front to defend and on the Macedonian front about 60 kilometers (37 miles)."

The Yugoslav statement said that "the precious British aid to the Greeks" in men, material and planes was "entirely lacking in so far as Yugoslavia's Army is concerned" because the Yugoslavs are cut off from Salonika and must face the Axis forces alone.

The statement explained that the Yugoslav Government and General Staff had not entered into consultations with the British and Greek General Staffs on coordinated plans of defense against the Axis because of its "desire for peace and neutrality" and also because of the surprise swiftness of the Blitzkrieg attack.

### YUGOSLAVS RECAPTURING TOWNS

**Serbs Slash Nazis—Reach Skopje Outskirts, Regain Prokuplje and Hold in Albania—New Drive Near Belgrade—Defenders' Spirit Is Reported High—Rumors of Truce Completely Rejected.**

ATHENS, Wednesday, April 16—After terrific battles in precipitous gorges between Stara Kachanik and Skopje, the tough Yugoslav Army was advancing steadily southward in the direction of Skopje, it was reliably reported last night, and some sources said the South Serbian capital had been reoccupied, although this was not confirmed.

Having readjusted their lateral communications system, Yugoslav troops in a daring move thrust back toward the Nish gap, retaking the town of Prokuplje, about thirteen miles southwest of Nish, the most important city in the eastern part of the country.

At the same time the Yugoslav counter-attack in the north was certainly meeting success, and Kragujevac, one of the country's chief military arsenals, was understood to have been reoccupied by the battling Serbs, although again it must be emphasized that this has not been confirmed.

#### *Push Nazis Off Balance*

It appears that the battle for Skoplje has been extremely bitterly fought, but the Germans apparently have been finding difficulties in supplying their streamlined mechanical army while drawn on by Yugoslav artillery accompanied by grenade-throwing riflemen, who were slowly forcing a passage back along the narrow curving gorge along which the Nazis hoped to penetrate to Prizren and the key to the Albania roads.

It was stated here that the Yugoslavs, after having reassembled their initially disrupted forces and counter-attacked south of Belgrade in the region between Stara Karachinika and Soplandje, were meeting success and that other Yugoslav forces were harrying the Italians in Albania. It was pointed out that the Germans had not gained nearly so much as was at first hoped for in Berlin and that fewer than 10,000 Yugoslav prisoners had been taken by the Nazis.

#### **THREATEN NAZI REAR**

BERNE, Switzerland, Wednesday, April 16—Northwest of Skoplje the Yugoslav forces were reported last night to be bringing ever heavier pressure to bear on the German rear, threatening their lines of communications to Bitolj Pass. The German thrust on Kachanik Pass was reported to have been repelled so thoroughly that Yugoslav advance units were able to break down the Lepena Valley to a point where, at one period, it was reported that they had captured prisoners on the outskirts of Skoplje itself.

On the Albanian front the situation remained obscure, but it was reported fierce attempts on the part of combined Italo-German forces to dislodge the Yugoslavs from certain strategic heights they occupied over Saturday and Sunday were easily repelled "with heavy losses."

Attempts by the Germans to employ aviation in this sector were frustrated by weather conditions that rendered bomber flying extremely hazardous. The German Air Force was reported to have lost three dive-bombers over this region.

On the Eastern-Central front, in the region around Nish, counter-attacking continued, inflicting heavy losses on the enemy at the cost of relatively few casualties on the part of the Yugoslavs.

In the Northwest the Germans were not attempting to strike further south on the Sava River but were following that river's northern bank for the most part in an eastward drive. Guerrilla warfare continued there as the First and Fourth Armies continued to retire to previously prepared positions. Although some Yugoslav prisoners were taken in that sector, German claims of upward of 30,000 men, plus officers and

much valuable material, were ridiculed as false in reports received here by Yugoslav quarters.

#### **REPORTS DRIVE TOWARD GREEKS**

LONDON, April 15 (UP).—Radio Athens broadcast reports today saying that the Yugoslavs were concentrating on a drive southward in an effort to join the British and Greek forces in Greece. The Athens broadcast said that Yugoslavs had taken the offensive "spiritedly" on a line from Nish to Kragujevac, in Eastern Yugoslavia, and forced the Germans back on both banks of the Morava River.

In Serbian Macedonia the Yugoslavs held Kachanik Pass and recaptured Suharjeka, north of Prizren, it was added.

#### **YUGOSLAV SPIRIT IS GOOD**

SOMEWHERE IN YUGOSLAVIA, Via Berne, Switzerland, April 15 (UP).—Yugoslav troops recovering from the first reeling blows of the German Blitzkrieg have stormed and recaptured the important Vardar Valley town of Skoplje after smashing a Nazi column of 400 tanks and 1,000 trucks, according to latest advices. (This dispatch, by telegraph to Belgrade and thence to Berne and New York, appears to have been written on April 13.)

One week after the start of Germany's Balkan invasion with a terrible bombing of the ancient city of Belgrade the situation appeared to be greatly improved, according to all available information.

German bombers, striking the first terrorizing blows, swept upon Belgrade early Sunday morning on April 6. The worst destruction was in the central part of Belgrade, including the Germans' own legation and the home of United States Minister Arthur Bliss Lane, who, with his wife and staff, had a narrow escape and a harrowing experience in fleeing the city.

Three days of rain, snow and cloudy weather vastly hampered the operations of the German air force after the Nazi columns had thrust down through Yugoslavia to beyond Skoplje, vital railroad and highway center 220 miles south of Belgrade and about seventy miles from the Greek border.

The weather working against the Germans served to bolster the morale of the Yugoslavs and rally them for a renewed defense.

General Milan Neditch, former War Minister, was promoted to the rank of field marshal and, bidding his time until the Germans had penetrated into the treacherous, rocky gorges of Central and Southern Yugoslavia, he struck with heavy assaults.

Field Marshal Neditch waited until the German armored column of 400 tanks and 1,000 trucks reached a deep canyon of the Nerodimka River just north of Skoplje. Then he ordered the Yugoslav counter-attack that met the Germans near Kachanik Pass. The Germans' gasoline supplies were destroyed and the armored column was isolated and cut to bits.

Swiftly the Yugoslavs stormed and took the city of Skoplje, which they still hold, according to latest reports.

Yugoslavia's Croats, traditional enemies of the Serbs and their foes in the World War, have attempted fifth columnist revolts in several towns but most of these uprisings have been easily suppressed, it is said, and they have not been widespread.

The bombing of Belgrade started shortly before 7 A. M. Sunday and continued intermittently for two days and two nights. The writer returned to Belgrade Tuesday [April 8] and saw the devastation and havoc.

All American and British subjects in Belgrade, it is believed, are safe, including the staff of the Trepcha mines headed by Walter Page of the United States Reclamation Service.

### REPORTS NAZIS REINFORCING

The British Broadcasting Corporation quoted the Ankara radio yesterday as reporting further Yugoslav counter-attacks in various parts of the country and added that "the extent of the Yugoslav resistance is shown by the fact that the German armies operating in the Balkans have been increased from thirty-eight divisions to more than sixty." Even this strength, the Ankara radio said, has been found insufficient and further German reinforcements are being rushed through Rumania and Bulgaria. The British broadcast was recorded in New York by the National Broadcasting Company.

Leigh White, Columbia Broadcasting System correspondent "Somewhere in Yugoslavia," filed a message, through Berne saying in part:

"The first week of the war ended with a successful counter-attack in the Lepanitch River Valley resulting in the recapture of Skoplje and the isolation of a German panzer division and four hundred tanks. Twenty thousand prisoners were claimed. General Milan Neditch, who directed the attack, was raised to the rank of Field Marshal. Three months ago, when he was War Minister, Neditch was ousted because he proposed an attack upon Bulgaria before the Germans could concentrate an army there. Nish was also reported retaken.

"The same towns which previously were spared are now being bombed regularly by the Italians as well as the Germans. Even beautiful Dubrovnik [Ragusa] is daily subject to indiscriminate attacks. But none have suffered like Belgrade, which can only be compared with Rotterdam, Coventry, Barcelona and Madrid.

"All Americans are safe, although the legation building was destroyed. With United Press Correspondent Leon Kay I toured the war zone with the American Military Attaché, Louis James Fortier, who asked that love be sent to his kids in New Orleans."

### ALLIES HOLD ON NEW GREEK LINES AFTER NAZI ADVANCE OF 50 MILES

**Nazis Push South—Drives From Bitolj Pass and Salonika Slowed by Stiffer Resistance—Both Sides Rush Troops—British Say Men Are Landing at Greek Ports, Not Leaving—Hitler Doubling Forces.**

BY C. L. SULZBERGER

ATHENS, Wednesday, April 16.—After a series of secret withdrawals from their original positions in Northern Greece, attributed to "tactical necessities" consequent upon the German invasion of Southern Yugoslavia, the British and Greek armies have now established a new defensive line running from the Gulf of Salonika to the Adriatic Sea, and are there awaiting the full impact of the German offensive.

One immediate result of this procedure has been to allow the German armored divisions to advance without serious opposition as far south as the Koziani region and the vicinity of Siatista and through Vlak-hoklisura Pass, about thirty miles inside the Greek northern frontier.

[The Athens radio reported a retirement of about thirty-five miles by the Allied forces, but the German High Command claimed a penetration of more than fifty miles into Greece at the west end of the defense line and the capture of Koziani and Siatista.]

### *Line Based on Mountain Chain*

The new defense line, based on an enormous mountain chain from Acroceraunium on the Albanian coast to the vicinity of Mount Olympus, is held extremely difficult for mechanized units to attack. Reinforcements, including fresh British troops, are said to be constantly moving up to the new front.

Looking at the map of Greece, one might be unduly alarmed on noticing that Koziani is half way between the Yugoslav frontier and Larissa, the capital of Thessaly. However, once the invaders had forced Bitolj Pass in their initial successes against the Yugoslavs, the only wise Allied course was to withdraw to the present lines.

The Allied withdrawal was said to have been efficiently carried out without immediate discovery under conditions of intense cold and snow flurries and protected by covering forces of both the Greek and British Armies, which inflicted considerable losses on German and Italian patrols.

The Germans, it is stated here, are now concentrating heavy forces on the Pelargonian plain in the region of Bitolj Pass. It would appear that a major battle is imminent. Heavy actions on a large scale have not yet occurred, however.

Yesterday's British Army communique stated merely that "on the right of the British and Imperial line several thrusts by the enemy mechanized troops were repulsed. Elsewhere there was no contact with the enemy."

It can now be revealed that the Allied forces in Greece have established a new defensive line embodying the greatest concentration of fire power and the benefits of natural advantages of the mountainous terrain in throwing back the expected full Nazi offensive when it comes.

### *Greeks Feared Flanking Move*

To accomplish this the Greek Army was forced to withdraw from the Northern Albanian sector to avoid being outflanked and cut off. They accordingly abandoned the city of Koritza, captured five months ago after successful operations against the Italians. The Greeks, it is explained, managed to effectuate this withdrawal in great secrecy three days ago, and it was not until twenty-four hours later that the Italian command became aware of the manoeuvre and sought desperately to halt it.

An Italian Bersaglieri motorcycle unit was immediately ordered forward in an effort to break up this strategic retreat, but the Greeks thwarted such efforts and captured several dozen of the Bersaglieri, they report.

In Greece the Allied forces have been able to inflict considerable damage on the Nazis by lightning raids.

Artillery fire has been able to destroy Axis patrols. At two points German sallies are said to have been forced back in disorder.

It is now revealed that the Adolf Hitler mechanized Schutzstaffel [Elite Guard] Division suffered the heavy losses mentioned in Monday's dispatch last Friday, somewhere north of Ptolemais, southeast of Florina. It is said the division was commanded by one of the slayers of Captain Ernst Roehm in the June 30, 1933, Nazi purge.

Allied reconnaissance aircraft are said to have spotted and destroyed many tanks near the Yugoslav-Greek frontier in this operation.

It is also stated that British armored units have achieved signal success over a hand-picked German mechanized force in Macedonia. It is believed that this Nazi division suffered heavy casualties as a result of concentrated artillery fire.

The Asyrmatos stated that before the actual withdrawal of Greek soldiers from the Koritza region all fortifications, passes and roads were demolished and war materials were successfully removed to the new positions. The same paper asserted that "strong German attacks were repulsed with heavy losses for the enemy at various points, where he was obliged to retire in disorderly fashion," but no details were given.

During the past twenty-four hours, there has been no fundamentally important development in the entire Balkan area, it is stated here. The redistribution of the Allied forces had already been accomplished but publication of the news had not yet been permitted.

It is apparent that the army staffs on both sides are preparing for what seems certain to be one of the war's greatest battles, although nobody knows yet when it will begin.

Meanwhile day and night the Balkan skies are the scene of continual aerial battles. The people of Athens are becoming hardened to persistent attacks on the city's port of Piraeus. Night after night the Athenian sky is lit up by death-dealing fireworks and the Parthenon is silhouetted against streams of pom-poms and flaming "omons." Ten Axis planes were listed as yesterday's bag of the British-Greek air forces and ground batteries.

This morning another long raid occurred over Piraeus as wave after wave of Stukas divebombed the harbor district. Anti-aircraft bursts spotted the clear blue sky and British fighter planes went into action. A communique issued this afternoon states that five Junkers 88s were definitely known to have been shot down and "many others were severely damaged and unlikely to have returned to their bases." No British planes were lost.

Several small villages in Attica have been machine-gunned. Some bombs were dropped in what a Greek Home Security Ministry communique describes as "the rural region" of Sparta. Larissa and the port of Preveza also have been bombed, and another Axis squadron attacked Yanina near the Albanian border with "insignificant" results. During all these raids, it is stated, no military objectives were touched. [At Trikkala, west of Larissa, thirty persons were killed and fifty injured, according to a United Press dispatch from Athens.]

British fighter planes broke up an Axis formation near Koritza in Albania, knocking down an Italian Fiat plane. Just east of the snowcapped Mount Olym-

pus, a British fighter destroyed one Messerschmitt 110.

It is impossible yet to estimate the German materiel and manpower losses in their Balkan campaign. The Athens press, however, estimates that at least 150 German tanks have been destroyed and more than 200 parachutists taken prisoners.

The Allied forces are now firmly established along chosen defensive lines manned by the cream of the Greek and British expeditionary troops, capable of displaying great fire power. The Axis Blitzkrieg has been greatly slowed down during the past four days, and this decelerated pace has permitted completion of the new front, which is now being continually reinforced.

### **"NO DUNKERQUE," IS REPORT**

BERNE, Switzerland, April 15—According to reports from the Balkans, there will be no "Dunkerque" for the moment at least. All British activity in the Greek ports, as reported by Axis reconnaissance planes, has been due to the arrival of reinforcements rather than to the departure of British contingents, according to a British statement here this evening.

Anglo-Greek resistance in the south of Greece appears to have forced the German High Command to change its plans. Now, it is stated the Germans find two definitely aggressive enemies, the Yugoslavs on the north and the Greeks and British on the south, and they no longer hold to their original intention of applying the "divide and rule" principle.

The latest Greek and Yugoslav reports, confirmed by the British, show that the Germans have been compelled to send reinforcements, that will almost double their effectives.

The arrival of these German reinforcements, it is stated, is becoming increasingly problematical in view of the increased Allied aerial activity, which is taking heavy toll of men and materiel, while railroad bridges, supply columns and "open cities" (sheltering the German High Command) are being bombed.

### **HUNGARY JUSTIFIES INVASION TO RUSSIA**

**Answers Rebuke on Yugoslavia—Swedes See Nervousness.**

BUDAPEST, Hungary, April 15.—In a statement issued tonight, the official Hungarian telegraph agency, answering the reported Soviet declaration on the subject of Hungarian occupation of Yugoslav territory, said in part:

"It would appear that the Soviet Government is ill-informed of the true state of affairs that preceded the entry of Hungarian troops into Yugoslavia.

"The Belgrade coup d'etat overthrew the legitimate Yugoslav Government which had sought to improve relations between that country and the Axis powers.

"Not satisfied with that, the Yugoslav Air Force bombed and machine-gunned Hungarian soil from the air, without any hostile act having been committed by Hungary previously. When Hungarian citizens were killed and Hungarian property was damaged, it was considered that by this action the Simovitch [Premier-General Dusan Simovitch] government had cancelled the amity pact.

"With the proclamation of independent Croatia, Yugoslavia ceased to exist as such and it became the duty of Hungary to protect Magyar citizens living there."

BUDAPEST, Hungary, April 15 (AP).—The Budapest radio said tonight that the Hungarian Army command had forbidden any one to enter or leave nearly occupied Yugoslav territory during the next fourteen days.

STOCKHOLM, Sweden, April 15.—The Svenska Dagblatt's Budapest correspondent reports that great nervousness about Russia's attitude prevails in Budapest, Hungary, that mobilization is going on all over Hungary and that Hungarian forces on the new Russian-Hungarian frontier have been heavily reinforced and placed in a state of emergency.

### AXIS HEARS TRUCE IS ASKED BY SERBS

**Italians and Germans Assert Only an Unconditional Surrender Is Acceptable—Propaganda, Say British—London Calls Report "Typical Bit of Goebbels" Work to Sow Alarm Among Allies.**

ROME, April 15.—Yugoslavia has asked Germany for an armistice, it was reported here this evening, and it is expected in some circles here that the conflict in Yugoslavia will be over in a few days.

The Italians say that there can be no question of anything short of complete, unconditional surrender. So far as Italy, and presumably Germany, are concerned, Yugoslavia's fate was sealed the day she bolted from the tripartite pact, and now, it is said, she is to be divided into many pieces, so that there will no longer be such a country on the map as Yugoslavia.

### NAZIS ARE DIFFIDENT

BERLIN, April 15.—Rumors abroad that Yugoslavia had sued for an armistice could not be confirmed in Berlin tonight. It appeared from the German view that an armistice under the present circumstances would no longer represent a feasible solution to the war.

In the German view, it appears that only unconditional surrender on the part of the Simovitch government would be acceptable to the German leadership. That unconditional capitulation can be expected within twenty-four hours, it was asserted in German quarters tonight.

### PROPAGANDA, BRITISH REMARK

LONDON, April 15 (AP).—Informed British sources said a Rome report that Yugoslavia was asking for an armistice was "a typical bit of Goebbels propaganda" and added that "the latest information received here gives no reason for any despondency about the Yugoslav situation."

The report, these sources said, was "probably put out to create alarm and despondency" among the Allies.

### SERBS GAINING, NOT SURRENDERING

BERNE, Switzerland, April 15.—Under a barrage of Axis rumors during the last twenty-four hours the Balkan situation remained obscured until a late hour this evening. It then transpired from reports received from Yugoslavia that there will be no capitulation—on the contrary, the provinces of Bosnia and Herbegovina have been held and parts of Macedonia have been wrested from the numerical superior Axis forces with great losses to the enemy.

### CROAT "STATE" WINS AXIS RECOGNITION

**Hitler and Mussolini Join in Messages of Congratulation to Independence Leaders—Reich Protectorate Seen—Structure to Be Based on That of Slovakia—All Parties Are Already Abolished.**

BERLIN, April 15.—The first harbingers of the re-created Balkans that are to issue from the war became manifest today when the Axis powers formally recognized the sovereignty of the newly reconstituted "independent Croatia."

Responding to the joint messages of Dr Ante Pavelitch, the Croat leader, and General Sladko Kvaternik [Dr Pavelitch has been described as President and General Kvaternik as his Premier, in dispatches from Nazi-controlled Hungary], announcing the debut of the Croat State, Reichsfuehrer Hitler, for the Reich, and Premier Mussolini for Italy, informed the Croat leaders in the name of the Axis powers that the recognition sought not only was cheerfully granted, but that both powers "received with joy and satisfaction" the news that the Croat people had won their struggle for independence in an hour when the Axis powers said they had demolished the artificial creation which was Yugoslavia.

The concurring replies of the Axis powers stated that the questions involving the future frontiers of the Croat State would be discussed in the near future with what they called the Zagreb Government.

The proclamation of the new Croat State, it was said here, represents the first political sequel to the disappearance of Yugoslavia as a political entity, and it was designated as the initial step in the process of establishing order in the Balkans.

#### *Likened to Slovakia*

Recognition of the sovereignty of the Croat nation was unconditional and absolute and it automatically identified the new State with the policies of the Axis powers in Europe and the Three-Power Pact.

No information was available in Berlin political circles as to the nature of the political structure that the Croat State was to receive, but it was said not to be improbable that it would resemble that of Slovakia and ultimately resolve itself into a protectorate under German military hegemony and be joined to the Reich by a customs and currency union.

The process of redrawing other Balkan countries which may be shattered by the war was said to be expected to get under way soon. Various national aspirations were said to await appeasement and the reshuffle to which the checkered political configuration of this sector of Europe was to be subjected.

It requires no prolific imagination to predict that the job of rolling up maps will be undertaken with

less rhetoric than was applied to similar undertakings by the powers assembled at Versailles, and official comment indicated that along with the Croats, the aspirations of the Albanians, Macedonians and Montenegrins would also be adjusted in keeping with the "principles of justice and decency." Hungary it was said here, is to receive redress for wrongs she claims to have suffered through the Treaty of Trianon.

### **PARTIES, MEETINGS ABOLISHED**

BERLIN, April 15 (AP)—The official German news agency D. N. B. reported tonight in a dispatch from Zagreb, Yugoslavia, that among the first acts of Dr. Ante Pavelitch as chief of the new Croat State were the banning of all political parties and prohibiting all public meetings.

[The British news agency, Reuters reported hearing of these decrees yesterday from the Zagreb radio in an announcement by General Sladko Kzaternik, Commander in Chief in the Croat State.]

### **ITALY WELCOMES NEW STATE**

ROME, April 15—The "independent State of Croatia" has been recognized in Italy, it was made known in a telegram sent by Premier Mussolini to Dr. Ante Pavelitch, the Croat leader, and published in the newspapers today.

Referring to a message from Dr. Pavelitch, Signor Mussolini said he was "pleased to express to you the recognition of the independent State of Croatia on the part of the Fascist government, which will be glad to reach an agreement with the Croat national government in order to determine the borders of the new State, to which the Italian people wish all luck."

Signor Mussolini also expressed his "great satisfaction" regarding the new State, which he said "re-acquires its much awaited and longed-for liberty now that the Axis powers have destroyed the artificial Yugoslav construction."

### **CROATS HERE RESENT DIVISION**

**Creation of Separate State Under Axis Inspiration Held Traitorous.**

To the Editor of The New York Times

Under the sponsorship of the two traditional and irreconcilable enemies of the Croatian nation, Fascist Italy and Nazi Germany, a separate State of Croatia was proclaimed some days ago at Zagreb, after that city had been occupied by German troops.

An overwhelming majority of the American Croats look upon this event with deepest abhorrence, not unmixed with a feeling of shame. A few adventurous renegades, supported by small groups of deluded youth and disgruntled office-seekers, have cast a shadow of treachery on a whole people whose most pronounced characteristics heretofore have been honesty and loyalty to a pledge once given.

This shadow, however, is a fleeting one. When the true facts in the case become known it will be seen that Hitler's harlequins, who have agreed to play the role of Tisza and Quisling in Croatia, are not only

personally more unworthy than their predecessors in Slovakia and Norway, but also that they represent even a smaller proportion of the Croatian nation than those two others represented in their respective countries.

The rank and file of the Croatian people repudiate the leadership of the agents of Hitler and Mussolini with bitter scorn. The names of Ante Pavelich, Slavko Kvaternik and other servants of the attackers on liberty and integrity of Yugoslavia—and therefore particularly on the liberty and integrity of Croatia—will be remembered by future generations as traitors.

Croats in Yugoslavia, with very few exceptions, will continue to fight for freedom shoulder to shoulder with their brethren, the Serbs and the Slovenes. If the fortunes of war should go against them, they will, in common suffering with the Serbs and the Slovenes, wait and pray and work for the day of their national resurrection.

Americans of Croatian descent will most heartily cooperate with the other Yugoslavs in this country in helping the struggle for the preservation and liberty of Yugoslavia to the best of their abilities, as well as in contributing to the alleviation of the suffering of its people both during and after the war, whatever its outcome.

MILAN BILLICH,

Chairman, Central Committee, Associated Croatian Organizations in North America.

Philadelphia, April 14, 1941.

### **YUGOSLAV ARMIES IN GRAVE POSITION**

**The British Navy Is Reported Evacuating Troops From Dalmatia for Greece—Guerrilla Fighting Fierce—Heavy German Casualties Among Troops and Planes Inflicted by Invaders.**

ATHENS, April 16—The German Air Force threw everything it had into the Balkan battle today seeking to crush the sturdy Allied resistance on all fronts and suffering enormous losses in the endeavor.

It was officially learned here that because of difficulties rendered possible by treacherous elements in the Croatian population, armored units of the Nazi Army had been enabled to penetrate southward along the left flank of the Yugoslav Army in the direction of Sarajevo, making extremely difficult the position of the defending forces.

In South Serbia the resistance of the Yugoslav troops remained heroic against great odds. The Yugoslav armies, although cut off by communications difficulties and pounded by overwhelming air attacks, were fighting unceasingly. It was reported that nearly 300 German planes had been destroyed in battles over South Serbia.

#### *Yugoslav Position Held Grave*

There is no doubt that the Yugoslavs have been fighting bravely against overwhelming odds, but the initial German successes were so successful and the odds, especially in the air, so overwhelming that the struggle is assuming a hopeless aspect and is rendering the Greek and British positions difficult.

The first accounts of exploits of the Yugoslav Air Force have been brought to Athens by a British Royal Air Force officer, who states that on April 6 and 7 the Yugoslavs destroyed 135 aircraft in attacks on



Belgrade alone. In the same two days, he said, twenty-two Stukas and Heinkels were destroyed over Fruska Gora and eleven were brought down over Boka Kotorska.

The Germans sent over bombers without fighter escorts at first, and Yugoslav fighters took the fullest advantage of this, but four or five days of bad weather followed, during which the Yugoslav aircraft were forced to remain on the ground, and German tanks came in and captured the airdromes. One Yugoslav air officer was forced to burn his five remaining Hurricanes and is probably the sole survivor of his squadron, the British officer said.

The Yugoslavs refused to accept a merely defensive position and actively raided Bulgarian airdromes, especially those of Radumir and Igumin. It is estimated that twenty-six Nazi aircraft were destroyed in one of these raids alone.

## SECOND ARMY COLLAPSE SCOUTED

BERNE, Switzerland, April 16.—From some reports reaching here late this evening it would appear that the German claim of the capture of the Second Yugoslav Army, based on Sarajevo, should be considered on a par with other German claims yesterday of British withdrawals from Greece. Although there were indications of a heavy German push down the Bosna Valley from the Sava River in the region around Samac, nothing received here so far would seem to lend credence to a possibility that the Second Army had been surrounded and forced to capitulate.

Sarajevo, in a strong pocket well inside the Drina Massif, is protected on three sides—north, south and west—by natural mountainous defenses, while on the east its only approaches cross the treacherous Romanijapl Plateau.

The Second Army base there has served mainly as a supply depot for the Fifth, Fourth and First armies. Its capitulation, which is still doubted here, would seriously affect the general situation of the defenses of the Dalmation coast in that it would serve as an excellent base for operations against the Fifth Army at Mostar, southwest of there, which could be relatively easily attacked over the Igman Plateau.

The First and Fourth armies were reported falling back in the general direction of Sarajevo, assuming position in the northern foothills of the Drina Massif, and the Fifth Army was said to have deployed to fight rear-guard actions along the Dalmation lowlands as far as the Neretvo River.

A German report that Yugoslav operations had ceased under a single command—a report that was said to have been confirmed by the British—would seem at least premature. Yugoslav military circles here said that the disappearance of a unified command, though serious, would not necessarily affect the general continuance of operations, since each army, under its own general staff, was organized to protect its particular area on all sides. Operating with their backs together, a modicum of liaison might suffice to continue effective operations, it was said.

### *Guerilla Attacks Is On*

Guerrilla-type operations continued in the area around Skoplje, with advance units now making a serious threat to the German rear before the Kachanik

Pass, according to reports received here. Further south several strong Yugoslav motorized units were reported to have succeeded in flanking the German lines west of Bitolj and finally to have broken through to join the Anglo-Greek forces somewhere in the neighborhood of Koritza.

It was understood these units inflicted heavy losses on the Germans in this push, which took four days to execute. They are understood to have formed part of the original thrust down the Radika Valley, west of Tetovo, and to have turned the Ochrida and Presba Lakes on the north.

Aerial activities of both Anglo-Greek and Yugoslav air forces have been very intensive in this region, with the elongated German columns suffering very heavy casualties as bridges and road junctions were destroyed.

In the Morava Valley Yugoslav troops succeeded in preventing the German forces pushing up from the south from reaching the German forces operating out of Nish. In the stretch from Leskovac in the north to Vranje in the south repeated attacks were reported to have wiped out entire German columns, and it was specifically mentioned that "very few prisoners were taken."

On the Albanian front repeated enemy efforts to dislodge the Yugoslav forces from their strategic heights were costing much manpower for no success whatever. Further guerilla sallies on the Italo-German rears were also reported to be taking a considerable toll of the enemy, who was bending his entire efforts for the moment to push the Greek line back into Greece. Aerial activity on that front has been relatively slight owing to poor weather conditions, which have rendered flying extremely hazardous in that mountain area.

An unconfirmed report received here at a late hour mentioned "Dunkerque" activities being carried out by the British Navy in the Adriatic, which was reported to be evacuating Yugoslav men and materials from points along the coast south of Ragusa. These convoys were understood to be proceeding to Southern Greece, when they would be shipped to the northern front for mountain fighting, in which they excel.

## YUOSLAV ARMY DISCOUNTED

LONDON, April 16 (UP).—The Yugoslav Army has ceased to exist as such and organized resistance in Yugoslavia has been wiped out, it was stated in London today. This is expected to bring the main strength of Germany's 1,000,000 troops in the Balkans smashing down on the Allied line without delay.

Unified Yugoslav control terminated, according to information to British military quarters, after the forces in the south were divided and overwhelmed by swift moving German columns that snared tens of thousands of prisoners.

"The Yugoslav situation is bad," said one British informant, "although guerilla warfare in the south on a greater or lesser scale is expected to continue, and this may harass German communications."

The Yugoslavs, directly east of Belgrade at the Rumanian frontier, were said to have dynamited the famous Danube Iron Gate and blocked Danube traffic for perhaps three months. The closing of the Iron Gate will block river traffic to Germany from Russia



via the Black Sea and from Rumania and Bulgaria, countries upon which the Reich is dependent for oil, manganese ore, cereals, nonferrous metals and other war commodities.

### **HUNGARY CALLED AGGRESSOR BY U. S.**

#### **Neutrality Act Is Invoked by Roosevelt, Who Condemns Attack on Yugoslavia.**

WASHINGTON, April 16—President Roosevelt today condemned Hungary for attacking Yugoslavia and put into effect the provisions of the Neutrality Act with regard to Hungary by declaring a state of war to exist between her and Yugoslavia.

The President invoked the Neutrality Act with respect to Hungary only a few days after Great Britain had broken diplomatic relations with the Magyar State because of Hungarian cooperation with the Nazis, not only in permitting passage of troops to Yugoslavia but by aiding in the military operations.

"Hungary having without justification attacked Yugoslavia, a state of war exists between Hungary and Yugoslavia," the Executive declared in his proclamation.

It was only a few days ago that George de Chika, the new Hungarian Minister, presented his credentials to President Roosevelt in the friendliest atmosphere. The President's condemnation today served to emphasize the speed with which the situation in the Balkans has been transformed.

Except for the moral effect, application of the Neutrality Act to Hungary will have few repercussions. Yugoslavia had been declared formally to be at war with Germany and Italy in an earlier Presidential proclamation.

Secretary of State Cordell Hull said today that as far as the State Department has been informed, Rumania has not moved against Yugoslavia. For that reason no official action has yet been taken with respect to that Nazi-occupied country.

### **HUNGARY TELLS OF BOOTY**

BUDAPEST, Hungary, April 16—Hungarian troops have occupied territory extending to the borders of the newly created State of Croatia and 15,000 prisoners have been taken, according to today's General Staff communique. Large amounts of war material have also been captured, the bulletin reveals.

Hungarian troops are said to be mopping up armed bands between the Danube and Tisza Rivers.

For two weeks private individuals will not be allowed to leave or enter the newly occupied territory, according to a decree of the High Command.

### **SOFIA BREAKS WITH YUGOSLAVS**

SOFIA, Bulgaria, April 16 (UP).—Bulgaria has broken off diplomatic relations with Yugoslavia, it was announced today. Notification was made of the break in a message from the Foreign Ministry to the Yugoslav Legation.

The break was attributed to a Yugoslav air raid on Sofia Sunday, to Yugoslav attacks on Bulgarian border points, and to alleged negotiations between mem-

bers of the Yugoslav Legation staff and elements that sought to foment revolution in Bulgaria.

It was announced today that four persons were killed and two wounded in Sunday's air raid.

King Boris received today the Turkish military attache who is to leave soon for Turkey.

### **BULGARIAN TROOPS ON MARCH**

ISTANBUL, Turkey, April 16 (UP).—Bulgarian sources reported today that Bulgarian troops had started to march into Eastern Greece to occupy the area between the Turkish frontier and the Struma River east of Salonika.

It was indicated that the Bulgarians near the Turkish frontier would be based at Dede Agach on the Aegean.

Turkish political quarters agreed that any such Bulgarian action would constitute aggression under the Balkan Entente, as part of which Turkey had pledged herself to aid Greece. However, informants added, Turkey was not expected to do anything on the ground that the Balkan Entente was dissolved in fact when Rumania joined the German-Japanese-Italian alliance.

### **YUGOSLAVS UNAFRAID, QUEEN MOTHER SAYS**

#### **People Will "Fight to the Last," She Is Convinced.**

LONDON, April 16 (AP)—Queen Mother Marie of Yugoslavia said in an interview today that if the women and children of Britain could stand the ordeal of bombing assaults, "so can the women and children of my country."

The Queen said illness alone prevented her from joining her son, 17-year-old King Peter II, in his fight against Nazi invaders. She is 41 years old.

"It is my great wish to be with my country in this hour," she said, "but my physician says I am unable to travel now."

Queen Marie received newsmen in a pastoral retreat seventy-five miles from London where she is living with two younger sons, Tomislav, 13, and Andre, 11.

"I am convinced my people will fight to the very last," she said.

"It will be a hard fight, but it was a hard fight in the last war, too. Yugoslavs love liberty and they will do everything to preserve their honor."

"I have the warmest feeling toward Britain and America and I wish to thank both nations for the help—moral and otherwise—they have given us."

Queen Marie said that young King Peter "has a strong sense of duty, is a hard worker and loves his work."

The last message from him, she said, arrived a week ago, saying merely: "Well and safe."

### **RUSSIANS SEE NAZI TASK**

#### **Holds Germans Have Completed Only First Stage In Yugoslavia.**

MOSCOW, April 16 (AP).—Red Star, organ of the Soviet Army, said today "the first stage of operations can be considered completed" in Yugoslavia with the

fall of Belgrade, but "the German command in the southeast now faces a new task of advance into the interior of the country"

"Before realizing this task Col. Gen Van Kleist will have to bring up infantry and artillery which lagged behind, making their way through mountain passes which are being cleared by German tank units," the paper said "Moreover, they will have to start mopping up remnants of the Yugoslav Army on the Bulgarian frontier"

Red Star said the Yugoslav units in the Bulgarian frontier mountains had received a radio order to act independently and added, "It may be assumed they cause the Germans no little trouble"

### 3 JAILED IN KILLING OF KING ASK FREEDOM

#### Release Sought for Croats Held in Alexander's Assassination.

PARIS, April 16 (Delayed; via Berlin) —Mio Kraj, Zvonimir Pospechil and Ivan Rajtitch, the three Croatian members of the Ustachi secret society sentenced to life imprisonment for having been implicated in the assassination of King Alexander of Yugoslavia and French Foreign Minister Louis Barthou at Marseille in 1934, started today a move to win their freedom when Georges Desbons, their lawyer, filed with the Minister of Justice a request for their immediate release.

The three men had been destined for Devil's Island, but remained to serve their sentences in French prisons, a decision to abolish the penal colony for French convicts having intervened.

### YUGOSLAVS' ENVOY PLEDGES STRUGGLE

#### Fotitch Sees Welles—Decision to Fight On Held to Assure Recognition by U. S.—Halifax Talks To Hull—Says North African Situation, Now "Stabilized," Outranks Balkans in Importance.

WASHINGTON, April 18.—The prospect that the United States would continue to recognize the refugee Belgrade government as the Government of Yugoslavia was considered virtually assured today after Constantin Fotitch, the Yugoslav Minister, had conferred with Sumner Welles, Under-Secretary of State, and announced in a statement that the fight would go on.

The Minister declared that the last two weeks of war represented only the first phase of Yugoslav participation "in the common struggle of the democratic countries for the principles of civilization." Victory, he asserted, will be achieved "alongside Great Britain, brotherly Greece and their allies with the moral and material support of the great American democracy."

Secretary of State Cordell Hull was not prepared to make any announcement at his press conference, for no official report has been received confirming the capitulation of the Yugoslav Army. When it is officially established that the Belgrade Government has fled the country but is still in being, and that the army has surrendered, an official statement of the attitude of the United States is looked for.

### Nations Still Recognized

Continued recognition would place the Yugoslav Government in the same category, so far as this country is concerned, as Poland, Norway and the Low Countries.

Secretary Hull received Viscount Halifax, the British Ambassador, who said afterward that he had discussed the military situation in North Africa with Mr. Hull and that he believed that situation had become "stabilized" North Africa, he said, is of greater importance than the Balkan campaign, which, he conceded, is "critical" He did not believe that Germany would move against Turkey because he felt sure Turkey would fight if invaded

Minister Fotitch, in the statement he made after having conferred with Mr. Welles, said

"In view of the news concerning the capitulation of the Yugoslav Army, I feel bound to declare that I am thoroughly convinced that the Yugoslav King and the government will continue the fight imposed upon the Yugoslav people by the Axis powers.

#### Will "Continue" Struggle

"They will remain faithful to the high ideals of liberty independence and human decency for which they were fighting and continue the struggle with all the means they may have at their disposal, even outside our national territory.

"The last two weeks of war represent but a first phase of Yugoslav participation in the common struggle of the democratic countries for the principles of civilization After this period the Axis and Fascists, instead of having a country and people who would collaborate with them on the establishment of the new German order will find our national soil laid waste and a people who will show at every opportunity that they are their enemies.

"The Serbs, Croats and Slovenes, in this first phase of unequal fight, have dearly paid for the defense of their national honor and independence, but the Axis powers have paid a high price for the conquest of our national soil.

"The Yugoslav Government and people will remain faithful in their decision to continue the fight until victory is achieved alongside Great Britain, brotherly Greece and their Allies with the moral and material support of the great American democracy."

### ANOTHER RESISTANCE PLEDGE

LONDON, April 18 (UP) —Ivan Soubotitch, Yugoslav Minister to London, said today that units of the Yugoslav Army would continue to fight independently.

"Although German tank drives have cut the country into slices and the Yugoslav High Command is unable to control the armies in the field, isolated Yugoslav units will continue to fight independently," the Minister said.

He asserted that he could give no information on reports that King Peter, Premier General Dusan Simovitch and other Yugoslav leaders were in Athens. They are safe, he said, but for reasons of security their whereabouts may not be divulged.

## BLOCKADE ON YUGOSLAVIA

### Britain Applies Trading-With-Enemy Act to Occupied Country.

LONDON, April 18 (UP).—Marking the first official British admission that Yugoslavia has been occupied by German troops, the Board of Economic Warfare announced today that henceforth Yugoslavia would be regarded as enemy-occupied territory.

The British blockade will be enforced against Yugoslavia and trade with the country is forbidden under the Trading-With-the-Enemy Act

## HITLER IN BALKANS TO DIRECT ARMIES

### Intends to Spend Birthday Tomorrow With Generals Leading Campaign—Germans To Fly Flags—Gifts for the Reichsfuehrer on His 52d Anniversary Pour Into Chancellery.

BERLIN (Saturday), April 19 (UP) —Adolf Hitler has joined his field forces in the Balkans and has taken personal command of the campaign intended to annihilate the Anglo-Greek armies and drive Britain from her last foothold on the Continent, it was revealed last night.

In effusive tributes to the Reich's Fuehrer on the eve of his fifty-second birthday, morning newspapers today said he would spend the anniversary tomorrow hard at work in field headquarters "somewhere in Southeastern Europe"

Herr Hitler devoted his fifty-first birthday to completing plans for the Western offensive that began with the invasion of the Low Countries on May 10. On his fifty-second birthday he will be poring over maps and military reports and shaping the drive against the Allies in Northern Greece

#### *Tells About Hitler*

"Even on his birthday, as on any other day, the Fuehrer stands with the generals at the map table, following hour by hour the march of his armies, considering carefully every movement of the enemy, meeting them with swift and often tremendously bold decisions, leaving nothing to chance and luck, but in most careful preparation and extreme caution considering any possible reaction of the enemy and assuring success in advance," Dr. Otto Dietrich, Nazi press chief, said in an article published in morning newspapers

The birthday will be celebrated throughout the Reich tomorrow. By order of Propaganda Minister Joseph Goebbels, public buildings and private homes will fly the swastika until sundown. Because of the war and Herr Hitler's absence no big military parades will be held. As usual, diplomats will call at the Chancellery during the day and write their names in the visitors' book.

Nazis said hundreds of presents were pouring in on the Chancellery from all parts of the world. The majority were of German origin, but many were reported from the United States, South America, Scandinavia, Rumania and Bulgaria. Some were reported from the newly declared free State of Croatia.

Among the gifts, informants said, was a water-color painting from the United States, mailed, according to the postmark, on Dec. 10, 1940. They said it, like

many other presents from abroad, must have passed through the British censorship.

Most of the foreign offerings were described as typical products of the countries from which they came. Works of art and family heirlooms were sent by Germans from various parts of the world.

The gifts include large quantities of coffee, cocoa, tea and other foodstuffs, which, as last year, will be turned over to Nazi welfare organizations or military hospitals.

Congratulatory letters also were reported arriving. They generally reach such proportions in the last forty-eight hours before Herr Hitler's birthday that special postal service to the Chancellery has to be set up.

The article by Dr. Dietrich gave some insight into the life Herr Hitler leads at field headquarters.

#### *Reports From "Whole World"*

"From early morning until late into the night an unending stream of military, political, diplomatic and publicist reports pours in from the whole world," it said. "According to their weight and importance, he fits them into the dynamics of his creative planning and comprehensive survey of events as a whole, forms opinions and takes decisions, and turns them immediately into orders."

"Unbelievably hard work is the basis of his supreme genius as commander in chief. Knowledge of the German Army's superiority and the incomparability of its leadership is the basis of his success."

"In constant telephonic communication with generals who lead the operations of their armies from their own headquarters, he forms pictures of battles and a view of the war as he wishes it to be."

The war has brought little change in Herr Hitler's appearance. Gray streaks are beginning to show in his mustache and hair, and the lines of his face are becoming more clearcut.

He continues to maintain the schedule of hard work continuing until the morning hours and proportionately late hour for arising. His meals are frugal, and he takes them in small and select company, if any at all.

## FIGHT TO CONTINUE, SIMOVITCH INSISTS

### Premier Attributes Defeat of Yugoslavs to Lack of "Prior Collaboration With Allies"—Cites Attack In Croatia—Declares Nazi Onrush in North Pierced Left Flank—Hails Heroism of Aviators.

ATHENS, April 19 (AP) —The Premier of Yugoslavia, General Dusan Simovitch, blamed today the swift German entry into Croatia and the lack of "prior collaboration with the Allies" for the speedy defeat of the Yugoslav armies.

In a military analysis of the war released by the Yugoslav Legation, General Simovitch, as head of the government in exile, expressed determination to "go on fighting at the side of our allies until final victory."

"Thanks to the good morale of our army and our people," he said, "and thanks also to the heroism of our aviation, which inflicted heavy losses on the enemy and which during the struggle lost 50 per cent of its strength, we had a chance after the first sur-

prise to organize resistance on the line Kosovo-Krusevac-Kragujevac-Belgrade and hold for a time the enemy advance."

While acknowledging that lack of collaboration with Greece and Great Britain before the war had worked to defeat the Yugoslavs, General Simovitch declared that "despite the Allies' willingness, they were unable to help us with planes and armored units which were badly needed."

He said that German agents in Northern Yugoslavia, laying the groundwork for the "so-called independent Croatia," had been followed by German troops who had opened a road to the rear of the left flank of the Yugoslav line and had hastened its collapse.

Over this road, General Simovitch said, the "Germans advanced so fast the Serbs were unable to reform their lines."

"The swift advance of German armored troops in Northwest Bosnia in the direction of Banja Luka and in Dalmatia as well as strong pressure on the flank of our troops which were defending Northwest Serbia—pressure from Sabac in the direction of Valjevo—prevented sufficiently rapid organization of arteries over which general headquarters planned to send troops to the last defense line," General Simovitch's statement added.

"The messages of sympathy for our country which President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill sent in those difficult moments have been received by our people with profound gratitude and never will be forgotten.

"We have unshakable faith in justice, in the victory of our great allies and friends, and in a happier future for our people. For this reason and despite our present failure we have not given in and will go on fighting by the side of our allies until final victory."

## CAMPAIGN IN BALKANS DELAYS NAZI SCHEDULE

**Defeat in Greece Would Still Leave British With Advantage of Having Disrupted Hitler Time-Table—Invasion of Egypt Is Held Up.**

BY EDWIN L. JAMES

It is Hitler's fifty-second birthday. He is said by his publicity managers to be somewhere on the active front. The active front being in the Balkans, that is perhaps where he is. After the rape of Yugoslavia, which did nothing worse than dare to resist the bulldozing of the Fuehrer, the Germans are throwing greatly preponderant forces against the British-Greek line drawn across the Hellenic peninsula. It will be recalled that the Greeks are being punished because they dared to oppose Mussolini's effort to overrun their country after he thought he had bribed Greek Army leaders into treachery. The British went to help the Greeks, as they had promised to do.

Hitler should be proud on his birthday. In one way or another he has subjugated ten countries, destroying three of them, holds millions of unhappy souls under his domination and is continuing to spread death and destruction in his war of unexampled aggression. That is the sort of accomplishment to make him joyful. The one cloud on the Nazi horizon is Britain. Britain dares to stand against Hitler.

The German campaign against Greece is peculiarly lacking in sportsmanship. The Greeks beat Mussolini's troops. Greece thus defeated a nation many times its size in a fight which Italy started. It would seem that if there were left in the world any sense of justice the Greeks would have been entitled to a private war with Italy. But the gallant Hitler has willed it otherwise. He is sure he can defeat Greece and the small British force which went to her aid. So on his birthday he is playing the role of the big guy who picks on the little guy under what he regards as very safe circumstances.

### *Schedule Gone Wrong*

However, from a broader point of view, it is not such a rosy picture for Hitler on his birthday. He had thought to bring Yugoslavia into line by threat and, that done, he had planned to pull his Italian partner out of the Albanian hole by mobilizing troops on Greece's border and calling on her to quit. It didn't work that way and he had to fight in the Balkans. Instead of having his war machine intact for the drive against Britain, he has gotten himself into a side issue important enough to occupy his attention on his birthday.

The indications are that the Germans will be victorious in Greece. Any other outcome would be miraculous. The British and Greeks have inflicted heavy losses on the Nazis who have sent their youngest troops into the mountains against the defenders' fire. But the pressure on the line is terrific and it is easier for the Germans to send reinforcements, now that Yugoslavia has been conquered, than for the British to send more men and materiel. It may take weeks yet to clean up Greece, but the chances are in favor of the invaders.

Yet, as things stand now, it seems a fair guess that the Balkan interlude will consume some six to eight weeks of the German effort.

### *Annals of the British*

It is being asked why the British went into Greece when it should have been apparent that with the forces at their disposal, even after dangerously stripping the Egyptian defense, they could not hope to defeat the army they knew Hitler could send against them.

It is perhaps the case that there is a double answer. In the first place, it is entirely likely that the British, having promised Greece aid in time of need, wished to make good on their promise to the extent of their ability. That would be one answer to the question. Another possible answer, and an important one, is perhaps that the British saw that a Balkan campaign would interfere with the German Spring time-table. Had there been no fighting in the Balkans, Hitler would have been able to turn all his efforts in April and May, two very important months from a strategical point of view, to his campaign against Britain. If a result of the Balkan campaign shall turn out to be a delay in the Nazi program for those two months, or most of them, the British will certainly have scored an advantage in their fight to hold out through the Summer of 1941 against the chance that they will be in a stronger position in the Spring of 1942.

Thus, it seems fair to state that a military defeat in Greece will not represent a total loss for the British. That this may be true is indicated by the efforts Hitler made to have his way in the Balkans without fighting.

It is evident that a defeat of the British and Greeks in Greece does not win the war against Britain for Hitler. Indeed, the situation in Egypt, with the Suez Canal at stake, is of more immediate moment to the British than the fate of Greece. It would be a serious blow to Britain to have the Suez Canal closed by the Germans. That is why so much importance is to be attached to the German drive through Libya over the Egyptian frontier, following the defeat of the Italians in Libya by Wavell.

#### *A Drive Halted*

The Germans, with their mechanized equipment, drove quickly to the Egyptian border and over it to take Solum. There the drive has stopped. The British fleet has interfered somewhat with the transport of new German forces and equipment to North Africa, and it may be that the hot weather and sand has had something to do with the halting of the German drive.

In any event the situation there looks better for the British. Wavell, after the virtual ending of the campaign in Ethiopia, is now able to put reinforcements in front of the Germans, who now find themselves with a long and perilous supply line, whereas the withdrawal of the British has brought them closer to the railhead of the line from Alexandria. In short, the Germans are still far from having reached Suez.

Confident of success in Greece, the German staff, one may expect, is already planning some future campaign. There is as yet no indication of what it may be. Berlin seems to be making special efforts to convince the Turks that Hitler has no designs on their country. The Turks seem but half convinced. Von Papen, the ubiquitous German Ambassador to Ankara, is on his way to Berlin, and it may be guessed he is not taking a vacation.

#### *Many Factors Involved*

The whole issue of Turkish possibilities is a large one. There is involved the position of the British in the Eastern Mediterranean; there is involved the idea that the Germans may make through Turkey a drive for the Mosul oil fields and there is also involved the attitude of Russia should the Germans near the Bosphorus.

Much has been said of the rude and inhospitable mountains of Anatolia and emphasis has been laid on the difficulties of a German march through the heart of Turkey. However, one should not lose sight of the circumstance that if the Germans could close surely the Dardanelles against the passage of British warships they would thereby open a path across the lower end of the Black Sea to the eastern end of Turkey, whence there would be an approach to the Mosul region through much more favorable terrain.

A consideration of that possibility evokes at once the situation in Iraq, where recently there was an overturn of government which the British have regarded as the work of the Germans. Yet, on the other hand, the new government has notified the British that it is still friendly. More important than that, a British force

landed yesterday in Iraq, moving through the Persian Gulf. A most interesting development.

#### **YUGOSLAV POSITION LAID TO FAULTS OF THE GREAT POWERS**

**Had They Based Their Policies on Historical Facts Instead of Accidental Phenomena, Minister Holds, Present Situation Might Have Been Averted.**

To the Editor of The New York Times:

On Palm Sunday, at a time which for Christianity symbolizes the spirit of sacrifice for faith and truth, the Yugoslav people took upon themselves a heavy burden of suffering—the kind of suffering which the twentieth century has assigned to those nations which above all love their liberty.

The Yugoslavs could have bargained for their freedom with unscrupulous aggressors. They could have preserved a measure of independent existence if they had been prepared to cooperate in the construction of a "new world order" within which their existence would have meant their degradation. Nations which accepted such solutions in recent years are the same nations which in similar situations in the course of history have always acted in that manner, being satisfied with partial independence and compulsory cooperation. Other nations refused to live under such conditions. It was mentally and spiritually impossible for them to accept such compromises.

#### *Liberty Precious*

Some nations, small and large, have never divided their liberty with others, even with incomparably stronger oppressors. They identified liberty with life. They preferred to fight for it even against impossible odds rather than accept an agreement under compulsion. Throughout history these were the same nations. For example, the Poles and Yugoslavs have always lived either in complete liberty or in slavery, while the Hungarians and Rumanians were satisfied with fictional liberty within the Turkish and Germanic Empires.

At the present time the fate of the Yugoslav nation is due in a large measure to the failure of the great powers to base their policies on historical facts. Had they trusted the lessons of history more than accidental phenomena, the great powers which are now engaged in defense of democracy would have known from the very beginning of the present crisis that countries like Poland and Yugoslavia would fight to preserve their freedom, just as they always fought for it in the past, and they would not have hesitated to give them the means with which to defend themselves.

This disregard of history accounts also for the failure of the governments of the small nations to understand the character of the people and for their belief that they could obtain the consent of the people for a restriction of their liberty.

Because of this twofold delusion of the former allies on the one hand and of the governments which followed a policy which the people neither understood nor tolerated on the other hand, the Yugoslavs found themselves materially unprepared for war at the moment when they could no longer delay choosing between fighting and capitulation. That did not change

their spontaneous decision to defend their liberty, but it decreased the possibility of successful resistance.

### *Against "New Order"*

It seems important to review briefly the development of events which produced the well-known manifestations through which the Yugoslav people declared they did not want any restriction of their independence and that they especially resented any shameful collaboration on the establishment of a "new order" in Europe, an order which would be defended by Hitler.

It became clear in 1936, after the occupation of the Rhineland by Germany, that no great power was determined seriously to resist the expansion of the Third Reich and to prevent it from liquidating the positive gains yielded by the last war and the treaty of peace. As a result, the Yugoslav Government adopted the so-called policy of political realism, that is, the policy of adjustment to new conditions and new forces.

That policy of realism was not accompanied by any change in the political ideals of the people. It meant only that the governments were prepared in the diplomatic and especially in the economic field to benefit by dealing with these new forces. Unfortunately, that policy at the same time destroyed the united front for the defense of those ideals which produced victory in the last war and which gave to the small nations not only independence but also freed them from feudalism by giving land to the former serf.

### *Turned to Realism*

The World War and the Treaty of Versailles represented a victory for the principles of the American struggle for freedom and of the French Revolution. The order created at Versailles, although not perfect, made it possible for all nations, the victors and the conquered, to enter upon an era of progress and prosperity. But other factors intervened to turn the clock back to mediævalism. It is not possible for me to discuss here the multitude of forces which were responsible for this turn of events, but the most important single factor was the indifference of the great powers to German rearmament and to German violations of the Treaty of Versailles. That indifference compelled the small nations to follow a policy of political realism, each by itself and with distrust of all other nations.

The Yugoslav Government followed that policy under the leadership of Prime Minister Stoyadinovich. He weakened more and more the ties with the former allies maintained under King Alexander with the French, the Little Entente and the signatories of the Balkan Pact, and he came to depend more and more on cooperation with Yugoslavia's two powerful neighbors, Germany and Italy. He achieved a certain measure of prosperity by means of a cleverly conducted economic policy and a certain amount of prestige and authority by being treated on the part of Germany and Italy as an equally influential factor in international relations. But these "successes" of Mr. Stoyadinovich's government were not appreciated by the masses of the people. As a result, that government was easily dispensed with when it became necessary to solve the Croatian problem.

The leader of the strongest Croatian political party, Dr. Machek, preferred to negotiate an agreement with a leader of the strongest Serbian political group, the Radical party. Mr. Cvetkovich was given the task of forming the new government. The choice was unfortunate, because Mr. Cvetkovich had never played an important role in the political life of the country. However, the Croatian question was solved, and a new government, with Dr. Machek as Vice Premier, was formed just before the outbreak of the present war.

In order to avoid the danger of having that government, viewed by Germany as "unfriendly," the post of Minister of Foreign Affairs was given to Cincar Markovich, Yugoslav Minister at Berlin, a man without any definite political views who had spent his entire diplomatic life in various capitals of Europe without ever being accredited to Paris, London or Geneva. It was reasonable to suppose that friendships concluded by him in Berlin would be helpful in his work as Minister of Foreign Affairs without being a determining factor in the conduct of the country's foreign policy.

### *Regime Not Strong*

In this manner the government of Mr. Cvetkovich was created. It contained one political leader of great national importance, Dr. Machek, who entered it because the Croatian question was solved to his satisfaction. The same reason was largely responsible for the support which the new government received from the Independent Democratic party of Croatia, whose President is Adam Pribichevich; the Agrarian party, whose representative in the government became Dr. Branko Chubrilovich, and the Slovenian People's party, whose head, Dr. Kislovets, was killed by a German bomb in Belgrade.

The Prime Minister, unfortunately, was essentially a local politician. The Minister of Foreign Affairs was a colorless person without prestige either as a diplomat or a public worker. The Minister of War, General Nedich, was a true exponent of the national spirit and tradition, and he was dismissed from his post for urging the government to strike a blow at the Axis without waiting for Germany to take the initiative on her own terms and at the moment chosen by her.

The policy of neutrality was fully justifiable by the difficulties of the Yugoslav terrain, which has a frontier of over 1,000 miles, and by the losses which the Yugoslav people had suffered in the last war and from which they never fully recovered. That policy was wise especially at the moment of French collapse. It enabled Yugoslavia to gain time and prepare for action at a time when its participation in the war would be most effective.

However, with the entrance of German troops into Rumania it became obvious that Germany had determined to cross the Balkan Peninsula on the road to the East and that in order to accomplish that aim Germany would either compel Yugoslavia to capitulate or to fight under progressively worse conditions.

For that reason, when the Yugoslav city of Bitolj was bombed in November, 1940, by Italian planes, General Nedich urged the government according to reliable reports, to retaliate by attacking the Italians and driving them out of Albania before the appearance of Hitler's legions in Southeastern Europe.



### *Foresaw Nazi Move*

General Nedich saw clearly that sooner or later Germany would be compelled to attack England in the Mediterranean basin and come to the help of the tottering regime of Mussolini. He knew also that such attack and help could not be made effective without compelling Yugoslavia to become an active partner in the work of destroying the civilization based on freedom of thought and conscience. Finally, there could have been no doubt in General Nedich's mind that no Yugoslav Government could undertake to give Germany such assistance and survive.

General Nedich's advice was not accepted. He was replaced by General Peshich, who had been out of active service for more than ten years. By that act the government showed that it was prepared to maintain peace at any price. Prince Paul and Mr. Cvetkovich watched peacefully the German occupation of Rumania and Bulgaria. They saw Yugoslavia surrounded on all sides. When there was no longer any hope of waging a successful war they faced the choice of signing the Vienna pact or plunging into war for which they had failed to make adequate preparation.

The government lost the confidence of the people and of the army, and its record in the field of foreign policy deprived it of the confidence of Great Britain and Greece and of other possible future allies.

After the resignation of some of its key members the Cvetkovich government had to go. It was overthrown on March 27.

### *For Peace With Honor*

The people of Yugoslavia, the new government under General Simovich, which represents all political groups in the country, and the national army were in favor of maintaining peace as long as that policy remained consistent with national independence and honor.

Following the overthrow of the unpopular regime, complete order prevailed in the country. The government immediately informed Germany and Italy that it was prepared to honor all international agreements entered into by the preceding governments in so far as they did not impair the sovereignty of the country. The government also announced that it was anxious to begin concrete negotiations for the purpose of reaching an agreement with the Axis powers, and that it had accepted an Italian suggestion that Professor Slobodan Jovanovich, Vice Premier of Yugoslavia, visit Rome for a conference with Mussolini.

Four hours before the German military machine invaded my country I spoke on the telephone with the Prime Minister of Yugoslavia, General Simovich. He assured me that the government had not yet lost all hope that its efforts to maintain peace would make an armed conflict unnecessary.

The efforts of the Yugoslav Government to maintain peace with honor failed because Germany was determined to convert Yugoslavia into a German colony.

Now let us ask ourselves why did Hitler attempt to force Yugoslavia into active collaboration with Germany, what was the state of Yugoslav military preparedness when the attack came, and how significant was the assistance which Yugoslavia was able to render in the beginning to Great Britain and Greece?

Obviously, Hitler would not have used pressure against Yugoslavia if that country's adherence to the

Axis had not been of vital importance in carrying out his war aims against Great Britain. The monotonous bombing of London seemed to lead nowhere. The war was being interminably prolonged. The United States was arming with everincreasing speed. It became imperatively necessary for Germany to attack England at the point where it was thought to be most vulnerable. For that purpose, Hitler and the German General Staff chose the Mediterranean basin. Once that decision was reached the fate of Yugoslav neutrality was definitely sealed.

### *Threats to Axis*

In the second place, the devastating blows dealt to Italy in Africa, Albania and on the seas threatened to eliminate that country as an effective Axis partner. These same blows bolstered the morale of the British and the Greeks and lowered the prestige of the dictatorial regimes. They were greeted with joyous applause in the United States and in the entire democratic world.

Finally, the overthrow of the Cvetkovich regime was regarded by Germany as an affront, an unforgivable insult to Hitler, Yugoslavia had to be humiliated for the sake of his prestige.

The German attack came nine days after the formation of the new government. During those nine days the government was faced with the task of completing the mobilization of the army and placing the troops in positions chosen by the General Staff. The time was too short.

As a result, effective resistance in the beginning was difficult, but the early German reports of disintegration and destruction were shown to be false. The Yugoslav Army was, however, finally compelled to retreat.

The entrance of Yugoslavia into the war on the side of Great Britain and Greece was a serious blow to Germany, regardless of the duration of the conflict and the effectiveness of Yugoslav resistance. Germany preferred to force Yugoslav capitulation without fighting. Had the Yugoslav people accepted the terms of the Vienna pact, the entire transportation and communication system would have been placed at the disposal of the German High Command for an attack on Greece and Great Britain.

### *Useful Assistance*

That system is now being destroyed. Furthermore, the war has disrupted the national economy of the country and made it more difficult for Germany to obtain supplies. Finally, Yugoslavia was for a time able to prevent the full power of the German Army from being thrown against the British and the Greek forces.

Every war in which Germany must engage costs materials and men. In Germany, man power is the cheapest commodity, but materials are scarce and costly. Yugoslavia is giving powerful assistance to her allies by destroying tanks and reducing the numerical strength of the German Army and by compelling the Germans to consume tremendous quantities of oil and gasoline required to move the armored columns of the Third Reich across the Yugoslav plains and mountains.

I do not wish to appear boastful, but it is fair to ask ourselves what would have happened if Yugoslavia had joined the Axis. Another bloodless victory for



Hitler. Another proof of cowardice and lack of faith in the ultimate victory of the democratic world. Another blow to Great Britain. By choosing to fight against overwhelming odds, the Yugoslav nation helped Great Britain and Greece to gain time when time was desperately needed by them in preparing for the German thrust.

I am sure that the American people will understand and properly assess the value of the Yugoslav effort to resist the Nazi invasion, and I hope that the dreadful price which my people have decided to pay will contribute in no small measure to final victory and to the permanent establishment of a better world after the war is ended.

Constantin Fotitch,  
Minister of Yugoslavia

Washington, April 18, 1941

### THE YUGOSLAV DECISION

As their Minister to this country, Constantin Fotitch, points out in the eloquent letter to this newspaper published on this page today, the Yugoslavs "could have bargained for their freedom with unscrupulous aggressors." They might have preserved for a time at least a semblance of independent existence if they had been prepared to "cooperate" on the degrading terms that Hitler offered. Why did they choose to resist, and what good did their resistance do? In less than two weeks of fighting their army has been forced to capitulate, their leading cities have been destroyed, thousands of men, and of women and children too, have been killed or maimed, the rest will be treated worse by the Germans than if they had not resisted. How can we say that their resistance was worth while?

That is the question that many disheartened people—in Yugoslavia itself, in Turkey, in the United States—will now ask themselves. One answer, as Mr. Fotitch's letter makes clear, is that this is a decision that a liberty-loving people does not make on any mere cold-blooded calculation. Their choice is immediate and instinctive. They identify liberty with life. They prefer to fight for it even against impossible odds rather than accept an abject slavery tamely. Any other choice is "mentally and spiritually impossible."

But there is another answer too. The sacrifice of the Yugoslavs has not been in vain. Men and women the world over were inspired by the mere spectacle of the Yugoslav defiance—a defiance that was heartening and heroic in proportion to its very hopelessness. The world learned that the willingness of men and women to sacrifice their cities, their homes, life itself, for freedom from tyranny was not dead. The Yugoslav decision, as Mr. Fotitch points out, helped the Greeks and the British, if only to gain time; it disorganized Hitler's schedule and his sources of supply. But long after these important material results have been forgotten, the memory of Yugoslavia's heroic defiance will stir men's souls and steel their courage. It is because men have been willing to fight against tyranny and oppression and degrading acquiescence, even when their fight was hopeless, that liberty and honor have not perished from the earth.

(EDITORIAL)

### KOMITAJIS HARASS NAZI CONQUERORS

**Reported Taking Heavy Toll by Sniping and Decoying Foe Over Land Mines—8,000 Try To Cut Way Out 9,500 Germans Listed Killed During 5-Day Period In Kachanik Offensive.**

BERNE, Switzerland, April 20—Komitaji resistance in Yugoslavia is still continuing, according to a report received here today from a neutral diplomat "somewhere in Serbia," and, despite German and Italian threats that overt acts will be tried by drum-head courts martial, snipers are still taking a heavy toll of isolated German patrols.

In the region northwest of Skoplje an armed band estimated at some 8,000 men is fighting its way toward the south, apparently in a blind endeavor to reach the Greek lines and continue the battle. It is reported that 111 of these men were captured early yesterday and summarily executed in the public square of the town in which they were caught.

On other "fronts" resistance is also rapidly organizing, with guerrilla bands placing land mines and then decoying the invaders into crossing them, with severe losses in killed and wounded resulting.

Some details of the last days of fighting have also become available. From these it would appear that in the Kachanik offensive alone the Germans lost in the five days preceding the "armistice" 182 tanks destroyed and forty-one damaged and suffered about 9,500 killed and double that number wounded. In operations over that area, eighteen Stukas were downed by the ground defenses in three days alone.

From other indications it would appear that the Germans, far from reducing the number of men—variously estimated at from 500,000 to 750,000—on Yugoslav soil at the end of the conflict, have been forced to increase their garrisons in such localities where they could not be replaced by Hungarian or Bulgarian troops, and even these replacements are understood to be encountering difficulties in "maintaining order."

A report from an Italian source sheds a little light on the identity of the negotiators of the capitulation. According to this source, Colonel Bonfatti, the military attaché at the Italian Legation in Belgrade, whose retreat from Belgrade was cut off by the suddenness of the German onslaught, remained, together with fifty-nine Italians still in Belgrade in the Italian Legation's bomb shelter. When German troops arrived in the capital and "restored order," Colonel Bonfatti is understood to have got in touch with the former Foreign Minister of Yugoslavia, Alexander Cincar-Markovitch, with whom he opened negotiations for the "capitulation." On the seventeenth these negotiations were brought to a successful conclusion and a capitulation was drawn up, signed by M. Cincar-Markovitch and General Jankovitch (presumed to be the military governor of Belgrade) for the Yugoslav Government and Colonel Bonfatti for Italy. How this agreement was extended to the Germans is not understood.

It was also learned from the same source that the former Premier of Yugoslavia, Dragisha Cvetkovitch, was seriously wounded during the fourth bombardment of Belgrade, and is at present in hospital in serious condition.

## PETER II REPORTED SAFE IN HOLY LAND

**His Plane Attacked, Minister Killed on Hop to Jerusalem, Ankara Radio Asserts—Gen. Simovitch Escapes—Premier and Other Officials Said to Have Accompanied King From Athens.**

LONDON, April 21 (UP).—King Peter II of Yugoslavia, fleeing to Jerusalem from the Axis conquest of his nation, narrowly escaped death when the plane was attacked by an Axis warplane, the Ankara radio reported tonight.

One unidentified Yugoslav Cabinet Minister aboard the 17-year-old King's plane was killed in the attack, it was said.

King Peter and General Dusan Simovitch, Premier of Yugoslavia, were said to have arrived in Jerusalem, along with several of their Ministers, after having flown across the eastern Mediterranean from Athens. The plane was said to have borne the marks of the attack—by either a German or an Italian plane—when it reached Jerusalem.

Others aboard the plane were Brig. Gen. Slovdan Jovanovitch, Second Vice Premier in General Simovitch's Cabinet, and Momcilo Nincitch, Foreign Minister.

Another passenger, according to the Swiss radio was the Yugoslav War Minister, General Bogoljub Ilitch.

The King will establish a government of "Free Yugoslavia" in Jerusalem, it was understood.

Dr. Vladimir Matchek, leader of the Croatian Peasant party and First Vice Premier under General Simovitch, was said by the Ankara radio to have remained in Zagreb to participate in the new Croatian "Free State" formally recognized by the Axis powers.

[A Vichy dispatch of The Associated Press quoted advices reaching there from Beirut, Lebanon, as reporting that Dr. Matchek had arrived at Jerusalem aboard the plane.]

## PROCLAMATION QUOTED

LONDON, April 21 (AP).—Dispatches reaching here tonight quoted a proclamation prepared before the flight of King Peter II of Yugoslavia from the German invaders of his kingdom.

"Although I am obliged to abandon national soil in the face of superior enemy forces," he said in the proclamation, "I do not mean to abandon the struggle for the honor of our flag. Following the example of my great ancestors, I shall until my very last breath hold high the banner of Yugoslavia."

## AXIS FIGHTS A RIFT ON BALKAN SPOILS

**Row of Hungary and Rumania Speeds Territorial Parley—Hitler Draws New Map.**

BY DANIEL T. BRIGHAM

BERNE, Switzerland, April 21.—Hungaro-Rumanian relations remained strained today and their respective presses continued to snarl at each other. At the same time the Foreign Ministers of Rome and Berlin proceeded to Vienna to engage in "preliminary discussions" on the division of the Yugoslav spoils

in an obvious endeavor to stave off open hostilities between two of their Balkan satellite signatories of the Tripartite Pact—at least long enough to wind up the Greek campaign before turning their energies to straightening out this situation, forcibly if necessary.

An unconfirmed report received here this evening said the two Foreign Ministers had considered the situation so grave that they had anticipated their original schedules and had begun discussions this evening instead of tomorrow.

In Berlin official spokesmen have again stressed that the Vienna settlement of the territorial question shall stand; in Budapest the Premier, Dr. Ladislaus de Bardossy, and his Cabinet, stimulated by its recent "bloodless" acquisition of territory at the expense of defunct Yugoslavia, is having difficulty in convincing the Hungarian people that the time has not yet arrived for the crossing of the Tisza River for still more advances into "thousand-year-old Hungarian territories"; in Bucharest Premier Ion Antonescu, who is encountering increasing difficulties from "subversive elements," appeared to have the situation well in hand, though his government representatives continued to stress that Rumania's "first territorial claim" was the readjustment of the Transylvanian loss suffered last year.

Few details were available this evening of further reported incidents on the Hungaro-Rumanian frontier, but the Cluj incident reported in these dispatches yesterday was confirmed as having occurred Saturday evening. As a direct result of this incident, the Rumanian military is understood to have drawn some of its reserves from the neighborhood of the Russian frontier—in Bessarabia, another 1940 territorial loss—to rush them to the new Transylvanian frontier.

Any "defensive" troop movement in the Balkans these days warrants much attention; any Rumanian or Hungarian troop movements toward their common frontier seriously menaces the Balkan powder keg, to which the spluttering fuse of the Yugoslav Banat has already been attached.

For Hungarian troops, following up the pressure of German troops in the Dunava Plain, annexed by occupation some 21,000 square kilometers of this rich land, pushing their advantage to the banks of the Tisza River, where they arrived on April 17 and then halted. East of the Tisza is a strip of the Yugoslav Banat some fifty miles wide and 125 miles long, coveted by the Rumanians.

Under the pretext of "defensive" measures during the early stages of the Yugoslav campaign, Rumania is reported to have massed four to five divisions along this stretch of her frontier. To date there has been no indication that these troops have been withdrawn. Should the Hungarians—who also covet this strip of territory—start moving their well-equipped soldiery across the narrow Tisza, it would need a miracle to prevent the Rumanians from also advancing, and anything might happen then.

The old charges of "minority persecution," aired so far exclusively by their newspapers, have kept the Hungarians and Rumanians at swords' points—but well spaced—for the last eight months. Now, however, Hungary is introducing a new note into the bitter polemics by charging that Rumania is no longer a "fit nation to be included in the community of the new order in Europe."

There is little doubt here that Hungary might well prevail on the Axis partners to allow her to continue her "territorial reacquisitions" were it not for the unknown factor of Russia, which does not view favorably this German infiltration in its "zone of influence."

Thus it will be seen that the Axis Foreign Ministers have a pretty mess of problems on their hands for discussion and it will also be seen why they might easily have decided to begin these discussions earlier than planned. Trouble between Rumania and Hungary, aside from threatening the Axis fuel supplies, seriously endangers their lines of communication for the Greek campaign. Moreover, any unsatisfactory solution of the Rumania tangle might well inspire an immediate Russian move.

### HITLER DRAWS BALKAN MAP

VIENNA, April 21—(Via Berlin) (UP)—Axis military and political leaders are drafting a new map of the Blitzkrieg-swept Balkans at a conference in or near Vienna and will announce the new boundaries soon, perhaps within ten days, it was understood tonight.

The new map, involving Yugoslavia and Greece and the satellite Axis nations bordering upon them, is being drawn by German and Italian leaders in consultation with representatives of Bulgaria, Hungary and the new "Free Croat" State of Northern Yugoslavia.

Map-maker No. 1 is Reichsfuehrer Hitler, who is understood to have sketched the broad lines of the new Balkans in a conference "somewhere in the southeast" with King Boris of Bulgaria, whose visit to the Reichsfuehrer was revealed by the Germans today.

Also attending the conference in or near Vienna is the Italian Foreign Minister, Count Ciano, who is putting in Italy's claims to a part of Yugoslavia's territory only four days after the final collapse of Yugoslavia following a twelve-day Blitzkrieg.

The new map may be known to history as "The Belvedere Conference map of Southeast Europe" and will replace the one the Allies drew up after the World War when Yugoslavia, Czecho-Slovakia, modern Rumania, Hungary and Bulgaria were set up out of the remnants of the defeated German Empire.

The new map, it is understood, will be made known to the world at a full-dress "Conference No. 7" in famous Belvedere Palace in Vienna, possibly before May 1.

German quarters intimate that the Axis intends to announce the new boundaries about the same time as the expected collapse of resistance in Greece and the driving of the British from their only foothold on the European Continent.

The new map is believed to give Bulgaria and Hungary the Greek and Yugoslav territories already occupied by Bulgarian and Hungarian troops, the Bulgarians the parts of Macedonia they once owned around Zaribrod, Pirod and Skoplje, and the Hungarians the Banat region north of Belgrade above the Danube.

Bulgaria and Italy, it is said, are expected to obtain enough of Serbian Yugoslavia to give them a common frontier along the Vardar River near Skoplje.

### RUMANIAN PROTECTORATE SEEN

BUDAPEST, Hungary, Tuesday, April 22(UP).—Nazi quarters intimated early today that Reichsfuehrer Hitler might reduce Rumania to the status of a German protectorate, much like Slovakia, to stamp out Rumanian internal troubles, reported to be approaching civil war.

Semi-official Hungarian sources accused Russia of inciting the terroristic Rumanian Iron Guard against Germany in an effort to create an excuse for a Soviet seizure of Rumania's Moldavian region.

Russian troops were rumored to have been mobilized on the Moldavian frontier, ready to march if the Rumanian Government of Premier Ion Antonescu fell under pressure being brought against it because of the territorial demands of Hungary and Bulgaria.

### ROME IN PRELIMINARY TALKS

ROME, April 21.—Axis talks are now going on outside Italy about the dividing up of Yugoslavia, but it was learned today in well-informed circles that the definitive conference to decide the future of the Balkans will not be held until hostilities are over in Greece.

Italy is naturally represented at the preliminary talks now taking place by a very important negotiator. It is understood that technical details will be discussed and the groundwork prepared for the Axis "Versailles conference" that will have to be held later.

Meanwhile, the jockeying for position continues unabated. Today the newspapers publish a telegram to Premier Mussolini from a man named Jove M. Popovitch, who calls himself "Minister Plenipotentiary of the Provisory Administrative Committee of Montenegro." In the message M. Popovitch expresses the committee's "profound gratitude for the liberation of the Montenegrin people from the Serbian yoke and the most ardent desire of all our people that in the new order which the Axis will install, Montenegro may find its place in the Fascist empire."

Croatia is another region where Italy is working hard to press her interests. Today it was announced that "Dr. Paulo Cortese has been named Italy's representative to the chief of the Independent Croat State, with the credentials of extraordinary envoy and Minister Plenipotentiary."

The chief in question is Dr. Ante Pavelitch, who was "nursed" here in Italy for a number of years and who went to Zagreb from Florence. However, there appears to be some question of the return to power of Vladimir Matchek. Problems like this will be settled in the preliminary Axis talks.

### YUGOSLAV DEBACLE HELD UNAVOIDABLE

**Ministers in Exile Assert Nazis Struck Before Nation Could Prepare Defenses—Traitors Also Involved—But King and Officials Say Croat People Were United With Belgrade Regime.**

SOMEWHERE IN THE MIDDLE EAST, April 22. Free Yugoslavia's first authoritative statement since the legal government left Yugoslav soil, coupled with a message to the American people, were given to The New York Times correspondent here today by two prominent

Ministers while on their way from Athens to an undisclosed destination

It is not only the story of what happened in those ten days after March 27, it is a defiant challenge to the forces now ravaging their country and a declaration that Yugoslavia will continue to fight on the side of Great Britain until final victory is obtained

#### *Bombed in Belgrade*

The Nazi onslaught upon Belgrade was witnessed by these Ministers and other members of the government. Without warning or even a declaration of war, Nazi planes hurled death and destruction upon the defenseless city, they said. In the first wave 150 to 200 Nazi bombers swooped over the city, which they left a heap of rubble, they declared.

"It is true that the Cvetkovitch government adhered to a policy of neutrality," said the Minister who was first to be interviewed. "Yet, taking account of the circumstances of this policy, it was virtually a non-belligerence favorable to Germany. It meant that the Germans were receiving every facility to use Yugoslavia as a base for their military plans.

"Our people strongly felt that behind the specious professions of German and Italian friendship lay an intention to take possession of Yugoslavia as they had done with Rumania and Bulgaria. It would have been shameful in their estimation to have submitted to this affront to their honor. It provoked a coup d'etat.

"Let me make clear from the outset that the coup did not come from the top. It was not engineered by any member of the previous government opposing Cvetkovitch's policy. It was a revolution genuinely emerging from the hearts of the people."

#### *Nazis Strike First*

"It was evident that the position of the new government was most difficult. It could not within a few days prepare the country to maintain the necessary resistance against attack. The Nazis were aware of that state of affairs.

"Two German airmen who were captured declared they had received orders to bomb Belgrade without mercy, and the ensuing carnage was far worse than the fate of the cities of Rotterdam or London.

"The numerical and technical superiority of the Germans was so great that without the help of their allies Yugoslavia could not have resisted with the slightest hope of success. It was clear that the previous government was blameworthy for this lack of preparedness. No staff talks could be conducted because Yugoslavia, in accordance with her neutrality, maintained the perfectly sincere and correct attitude, as did Belgium, of avoiding any suspicion during those fateful ten days of inclining to one side or the other, unlike the previous [Cvetkovitch] government. But that very correctness proved their undoing.

"Britain and America were prepared to help, but time was too short. We had to undertake to fight with our own means.

"It was only Saturday evening when we sat in a cabinet council discussing the position. We had hopes of obtaining some agreement with the Germans. We obtained a treaty of friendship with Russia, which was a most important development, for which we remain ever grateful to our great Slav neighbor. We also had treaties of friendship with Bulgaria and Hungary. We thought we could weather the storm."

But the storm broke within twelve hours of that last meeting in Belgrade, the Minister said. Strangely enough, Premier General Dusan Simovitch's daughter was being married on that fateful Sunday morning at 6 o'clock. It was the very hour when the first Nazi air attack began. But, unperturbed, General Simovitch accompanied his daughter and the bridegroom to the church where the wedding took place amid the din of falling bombs and the demolition of the fair Serbian capital. Later they learned the church had been destroyed.

#### *Blames Traitorous Role*

"Even under the circumstances," the Minister said, "we might have been able to prolong our resistance had not Ante Pavelitch, paid Italian agent and one of the murderers of our beloved King Alexander, entered Croatia under the protection of German troops. This treacherous hireling Pavelitch assumed the administration of Croatia by the force of foreign arms and smothered all signs of local Croat resistance. The Croat people were with us, but they were overwhelmed by traitors.

"The rear and left flank of our armies in the central sector were laid open to attack. In these circumstances it was impossible to maintain effective military resistance. The only thing that remained was for King Peter's government to leave Yugoslav territory, thus placing on record for this generation and for posterity that the legal representatives of our country did not capitulate."

Certain Croat members of the Central Government left Yugoslavia with Serb colleagues, but it is feared Dr. Vladimir Matchek, Croat leader, could not leave Zagreb in time, and it is reported he may have been shot.

"We are extremely grateful to President Roosevelt and the American people for their messages," the Minister said. "Nothing has given us more hope and strength than the American expression of profound sympathy for our cause. They could not send timely technical help, but their moral support was of paramount importance for us."

#### **STRONG SERB FORCES FIGHT ON**

One week after the Axis-announced capitulation of the Yugoslavian army, strong forces still are fighting, it is revealed in the following dispatch—first to reach the outside world from the conquered kingdom since its collapse.

BY MICHAEL CHINIGO

SOMEWHERE IN YUGOSLAVIA, By COURIER TO BUDAPEST April 23.—Still uninformed of the formal surrender of Yugoslavia last Thursday a portion of the second Yugoslavian army continues to operate along the Dalmatian Coast.

Elsewhere enemy occupation of the kingdom is virtually complete. The Axis is slicing it up, but Croatia is said to be ready to resist possession of Dalmatia.

Parts of the story of the final capitulation of Yugoslavia now may be told. At the time this dispatch is being written, some 6,000 bodies have been dug from the wreckage of Belgrade.

But only six German soldiers lost their lives when the kingdom's proud capital fell.

Italian, German, Bulgarian and Hungarian delegations now are engaged in the process of dismembering Yugoslavia. It is understood Italy will receive the lion's share.

The situation at Zagreb is still most tense.

Vladimir Matchek, the Croation leader, still retains a following of 90 per cent of the Croatians. They are remaining in the capital guarded by their own loyal Croatian troops.

Dr Ante Pavelitch, the leader of the new Croatian state, has been conferring with Italian officials, attempting to limit Italian occupation of the Dalmatian coast.

The Croats are outspokenly opposed to Italian occupation of the strategic Dalmatian Coast and are said to be ready to fight to prevent it.

Anti-English and anti-American feeling run high in Zagreb.

Any person talking in English in Zagreb runs the risk of being shot.

Intervention of the Diplomatic Corps on April 9 saved Belgrade from total destruction.

The American Military Attache was instrumental in obtaining the withdrawal of Premier General Dusan Simovitch from the Belgrade garrison.

The battered city is threatened with a typhus epidemic despite efforts to clean up the wreckage, bury the dead and restore the water supply.

The American Red Cross is doing a magnificent job in feeding 5,000 to 6,000 persons daily.

### ITALY IS EXPECTING ALL OF DALMATIA

**Press Indicates Spoils Hoped For After Ciano Confers In Vienna With Hitler—Axis Curbs Reporters—Rome and Berlin Forbid Any but Officially Authorized News About Leaders.**

ROME, April 23—Italian Foreign Minister Count Ciano returned to Rome from his meetings in Vienna over the week-end with Reichsfuehrer Hitler and Joachim von Ribbentrop, German Foreign Minister, to whom he presented the Italian point of view on the future settlement of Yugoslav.

A communiqué printed in this morning's press under a Berlin dateline was the first that Italians heard about the trip of their Foreign Minister, which was kept secret.

Responsible Italian circles stated today that journalists sending news of meetings involving Premier Mussolini, Adolf Hitler, Count Ciano or Herr von Ribbentrop would be severely punished in the future. An agreement as to the penalty to be imposed has been reached between Berlin and Rome, it was stated, so as to prevent a leakage of such news in either of the Axis capitals.

#### *Press Hints of Spoils*

Although official secrecy is being maintained about the results of Count Ciano's trip, the press indicates that to Italy will be assigned virtually all of Dalmatia. The word "virtually" is being prefixed by Italians inasmuch as they believe that the "Independent State of Croatia" will have a port on the Adriatic. The general belief is that this will be Susak, a town facing Fiume.

Montenegro, according to many Italians, is expected to become part of the Italian Empire. Its annexation would be along lines similar to those of Albania, the crown of Montenegro being offered to King Victor Emmanuel.

Giovanni Ansaldo, in the *Telegrafo*, comes out openly for the total annexation of Dalmatia, which, he says, is "Italian in spirit and must again be politically Italian." He admits that the Slavs form an "absolute majority" in that territory, but this, he holds, does not alter the fact that

Dalmatia is Italian "because its historical and cultural traditions are Italian." Signor Ansaldo writes:

"Its past is intimately linked to that of Rome and, above all, Venice, and because everything that today represents civilization there is Italian. This counts in life more than all statistical results and plebiscites."

### NEW CURB ON REPORTERS

BERLIN, April 23 (AP)—Foreign correspondents accredited in one of the Axis countries hereafter may not tip off information concerning certain personages to their colleagues in other Axis countries, authorized Germans announced today as a result of an agreement between German and Italian official press authorities.

Unless it is announced officially or authorized, no mention may be made or any information imparted on the movements of the following: Adolf Hitler, Premier Mussolini, the German or Italian Foreign Ministers, other military personages, government heads or Foreign Ministers of third countries conferring with or traveling in the countries of Axis statesmen.

If foreign correspondents send revelations transgressing laws against espionage, they may be subject to trial and punishment under those laws. Otherwise, a series of punishments culminating in the ejection of such correspondents from the country may be invoked.

Correspondents in Germany hitherto have been under these same restrictions except as regards giving information to their colleagues in Rome.

German Foreign Minister Joachim von Ribbentrop and Count Ciano, Italian Foreign Minister, after a conference with Adolf Hitler, met at Vienna to exchange ideas on the dissolution of Yugoslavia, where Axis troops still are doing what is called police duty. It was considered that these conversations were preliminary to a general program that might also involve the fate of Greece.

### KING PETER'S ESCAPE IN BELGRADE RELATED

**In Shelter Elsewhere as Nazis Opened Bombing at His Palace.**

SOMEWHERE IN THE MIDDLE EAST, April 23. When German planes raided Belgrade early on Sunday, April 6, they flew straight over the royal palace, where King Peter II had been residing, but he had moved the previous day to the White Palace, the former residence of Regent Prince Paul, and escaped the bombing that reduced his own palace to ruins, a Yugoslav Foreign Office official told the writer today. The official, who flew here with the young King, said Peter remained on Yugoslav soil until the last possible moment.

The official described evident attempts by the Germans to find King Peter.

The Royal Palace had no shelters.

### YUGOSLAVS REMAIN ALLIES

LONDON, April 23 (AP)—Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden declared in Parliament that King Peter of Yugoslavia had established his government in the Middle East and that the Yugoslavs would continue as allies of Britain. Peter and his Ministers are reported in Jerusalem or Egypt.

## HITLER'S VERSAILLES

Before the deceased ceased to struggle, two well-known ambulance chasers bobbed up in Vienna to perform another autopsy. This time the victim is Yugoslavia, and the operators rushed to the morgue with indecent haste because the fight over the remains threatens to become embarrassing. Under cover of the engrossing military operations in Greece, four claimants have advanced in force over the prostrate body of Yugoslavia, each staking off a coveted slice of territory. The Italians dashed up the Adriatic coast from the Albanian border to Fiume to gain possession of Dalmatia. The Bulgarians marched into Macedonia, establishing themselves in the South Serbian town of Skoplje. The Hungarians and Rumanians are drawn up in battle array, ready to fight over the rich lands of the Yugoslav Banat, once ruled by Hungary. Meantime the frontiers of the separate state of Croatia have not been defined and late reports indicate that large sections of the scattered Serb army are still alive and kicking in the center of the country.

There is danger for Hitler in all these disputes and new divisions. A particularly ugly situation is developing in Rumania, where the harassed Premier, prodded by the inextinguishable Iron Guard, now said to be stirred up by Russia, is publicly repudiating the Vienna operation of 1940 which cut Transylvania in two. This danger must have been considered in the Ciano-Ribbentrop conference with Hitler this week, for while the quarrelsome Balkans will have to take anything they get, and like it, the master of the house must be infuriated by the incessant disorder reigning among the conquered but apparently unconquerable peoples.

The Fuehrer has sketched a new map of Southeast Europe, to be imposed as soon as the Greek campaign is finished. His Versailles will be announced instead of negotiated. It will be the "Diktat" of one man instead of a compromise worked out by many-minded commissions hearing all sides. And it will settle nothing, satisfy nobody, and contain no provision for appeal or repeal. Of all the strait-jackets ever devised, it will be the most inflexible, the most inhumane, and—as we see already in Rumania and Hungary—the most futile. Even Dr. Hitler himself, sharpening his knife for "Operation No. 7," might pause before giving the world a final demonstration of the kind of peace and order he substitutes for the pattern he has destroyed.

(Editorial)

## YUGOSLAVS CAPTURED

### 10,000 Reported to Have Surrendered in Greek Region.

ZURICH, Switzerland, April 24 (UP)—Ten thousand Yugoslav soldiers and sixty officers who had fought their way into Greece through Bitolj Pass were among the forces of the Epirus-Macedonian region that formally surrendered to the Axis yesterday, the Zagreb radio said tonight.

The radio of the "Free Croat State," quoting military advices, said the Yugoslav troops, including two generals, had succeeded in reaching the Greek lines through Bitolj Pass before the Germans cut Yugoslavia in two.

The Zagreb radio said the Commander-in-Chief of the "Free Croat Army" had called up the Croat military classes of 1918, 1919 and 1920 and all Croats who were officers or non-commissioned officers in the now shattered Yugoslav Army to "form the kernel" of a new Croat

fighting force. The new army will be organized on "the German model," it was said, and will be garrisoned in the cities of Zagreb, Varazdin and Osijek.

## YUGOSLAVIA'S FALL IS LAID TO TRAITORS

**Macedonians Cut Telephone and Telegraph Wires, Isolating All Defense Armies—Nazi Spies Helped Much—British Plans Were Upset by Failure of the Forces at Bitolj to Fight.**

BY C. L. SULZBERGER

SMYRNA, Turkey, April 25—The invasion of Yugoslavia was greatly aided by a large fifth column that had been organized among Macedonians for years by Bulgarian-led remnants of the Macedonian revolutionary organization. There also were Albanian agents of Italy.

Within thirty-six hours after the outbreak of the Yugoslav war these traitors had cut almost every important telephone and telegraph wire in South Serbia and had started other sabotage. The organization was so complete that a British Consul's car was sabotaged and he was unable to escape.

A whispering fear campaign, obviously inspired by Axis agents, completed the disaster after the initial shock of armored columns supported by bombings and parachutists in Macedonian centers. Yugoslav Army units, misinformed about the situation, had no means of getting in touch with each other and they heard only "the Germans are only a few miles away."

Thus Bitolj was evacuated by the military a day before any Germans were near the city and the difficult Babuna Pass was left undefended.

### *Few Armored Cars for British*

Two weeks ago today I drove from Bitolj to Greece and was eagerly interviewed by British officers at an artillery position near the border. Several intelligence officers asked how soon the Germans would come through the gap and I estimated forty-eight hours. The commander immediately ordered a detachment of armored cars, but it was discovered only ten were available in that sector and a few of these were left for his needs.

Yugoslavia was the keystone in the Balkan defense arc. What every one hoped when Belgrade decided to fight was that the Yugoslavs would be able to hold off the Germans in the Struma region while retreating in the north and attacking the Italians in Albania. The Greeks were ready for an offensive in Albania and it was hoped the Fascists would flee from the coast.

Inefficient troop concentrations spoiled the initial elements for the plan. Commanders on the Bulgarian frontier screamed for reinforcements and the full offensive against Albania never began. The Yugoslavs never made a junction with the Greeks in Albania.

Aid to the Balkans became inevitable for Britain when it was indicated the Nazis would occupy Bulgaria. Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden rushed to the East and visited Athens three times, the first time secretly, and twice saw Shukru Saracoglu, Turkish Foreign Minister. He also conferred in Athens with Ronald Campbell, the British Minister to Belgrade.

Mr. Eden's job was to form a solid alliance between Britain, Turkey, Greece and Yugoslavia. The difficulty was that Yugoslav-Turkish negotiations had bogged down because of the treachery of the Belgrade government.



### *Poorly Armed Turks Balked*

The Turks pointed out that while they were formally allied with Britain they could not carry out the pact because Britain had not been able to fulfill its secret military clauses providing for specific amounts of war material which was not available after the French collapse and the locking up of Syrian stores.

Mr. Eden decided his obligation was to aid the Greeks and British troops began to arrive at Piraeus and Volos shortly after his second visit to Greece. He also did his utmost to persuade Yugoslavia to join.

The rapidity of the Yugoslav collapse never completely sank in until the government fled to Greece. Prince Paul, the Regent, had remained in Athens as a guest of King George until he was caught telegraphing Vladimir Matichuk, Croat leader, signing his mother's name to the message, and was expelled to Egypt.

Three days later, when King Peter arrived in Athens it was realized Yugoslavia was finished. Until that moment no one expected that the Serbs would be forced to stop fighting but the Croat revolt allowed the German columns to cut into Sarajevo with scarcely any resistance, blocking the Serbian rear.

Meantime, the British were desperately reorganizing their defense and the Greeks were forced to withdraw from part of Albania to cooperate in the new line that was formed on the assumption that Bitolj Gap would remain closed. However, the Germans poured through Bitolj.

A noble stand was made but the British Army in Greece was too small for the task and it was impossible to bring up large enough ground and air reinforcements because of the German drive in Africa. Greeks held the longest section of the line.

### **FOUR AMERICANS REACH BUDAPEST BY AUTO**

**Drive There From Belgrade—U. S. Correspondents Missing.**

BUDAPEST, Hungary, April 25 (UP)—Four Americans arrived in Budapest tonight from Belgrade, Yugoslav, by automobile.

They were Sam Brewer, correspondent for the Chicago Tribune, Cecil Brown, correspondent for the Columbia Broadcasting System; Cavendish Cannon, second secretary of the United States Legation at Athens, and Mrs. Cannon. They had left Belgrade yesterday morning.

They said that, as far as they knew, all Americans, except members of the legation staff, had left Belgrade.

Mr. Brewer and Mr. Brown reported that Max Harrelson, Associated Press correspondent, had been stranded at Zagreb, where the new Croat authorities took away his passport. Mr. Harrelson was said to be unable to leave Zagreb or file any dispatches.

The American party reached here without difficulty, crossing the Danube and the Drava by Hungarian pontoon bridges. The permanent bridges had been blown up in the course of the hostilities in Yugoslavia.

### **RAVAGED BELGRADE IS IN NEED OF FOOD**

**Yugoslavia's Capital Reported Recovering from Havoc of Fierce Nazi Bombing—City Buries 6,000 Dead—British Account Gives 20,000 as Number Killed in Attack "Worse Than Warsaw".**

BUDAPEST, Hungary, April 27 (AP).—Travelers from Belgrade, bomb-ravaged capital of Yugoslavia, re-

port that 6,000 dead have been buried and that the city is returning to normal, Civil disorder has disappeared, it is said.

German military authorities are organizing a new city administration and ruins of buildings are being razed. The travelers report that Jews and Serb war prisoners are being put to work clearing the wreckage.

The city's water and electricity have been restored, they report, but the railroads have not resumed operation because of the destruction of bridges and tunnels. The food situation is described as critical.

### *Radio Reports on Raids*

The British and Italian radios yesterday broadcast new accounts of the German bombing of Belgrade, the Columbia Broadcasting System's listening station here reported.

This is the British version.

"Reports reaching London from neutrals who have escaped from Belgrade describe the pitiless cruelty of the German air bombardment of the Yugoslav capital, which they say was worse than Warsaw. They add that conditions there are unimaginable.

"These accounts might sound like incredible exaggerations, if they did not tally with the recent Berlin broadcast by the German Air General Kvarda. He said: "The roaring of dive-bombers, the ghastly crash of houses collapsing, the hospitals overflowing with wounded, the streets covered with dead—all these things is of the utmost importance for Germany to bring about, so as to enable her to secure her military ends.

"One estimate puts the casualties in Belgrade at over 20,000 people killed. The attack took place within a few hours of the German invasion of Yugoslavia, and the city's water and electricity supplies were soon wrecked. Fleeing citizens were machine-gunned, and those now left in Belgrade are said to be living like animals.

### *Health Declared Imperiled*

"The health of the population is seriously threatened by the insanitary conditions, polluted water, and shortage of food."

Here is the Italian radio's account.

"New, interesting details have come in on the bombardment of Belgrade and the disorders that followed. Bombs started to rain on the Serbian capital on April 6 at 7 sharp.

"Dive-bombing was the feature. Soon after the War Ministry, the High Command and Military Academy were three torches which could be seen from miles away. Water, electricity, and transport facilities became no longer so. An hour later, at 8, many of the city's military objectives were in ruins.

"The German bombers paid three more visits the next day. Comfort soon spelled chaos as a result of this. The government took to its heels, stores were sacked and armed conflict broke out among the population, which tried to break all records in the plundering and racketeering business.

"The police, it seems, had also fled."

### **NAZIS ACCUSE LEGATIONS**

**Say Allies Kept Explosives in Bulgaria—Briton Is Held.**

ZURICH, Switzerland, April 27 (UP)—Explosives have been found by Bulgarian police in the British and Yugoslav legations at Sofia, Plovdiv and Stara-Zagora, the German radio reported today.



The radio reports said that Bulgarian police thus far have arrested thirty persons known to be "in the service of foreign agents."

They seized a radio station which, the German announcer alleged, was provided by British agents

Bulgarian officials have confirmed the announcement continued, that explosives found in various public utility plants in February, came from the British Legation.

SOFIA, Bulgaria, April 27 (AP)—Police today charged Norman Davis, former press attache at the British Legation, with being one of the ringleaders of an espionage and sabotage ring which was said to have distributed explosives

He is being held for trial

#### **TEXT OF PRIME MINISTER WINSTON CHURCHILL'S BROADCAST REPORT ON WAR**

*Following is the text of Prime Minister Winston Churchill's address yesterday as recorded by THE NEW YORK TIMES from a broadcast:*

##### *'The Tragedy of Yugoslavia*

.. "The tragedy of Yugoslavia has been that these brave people had a government who hoped to purchase an ignoble immunity by submission to the Nazi rule. But, when at

last the people of Yugoslavia found out where they were being taken and rose in one spontaneous surge of revolt, they saved the soul and future of their country, but it was already too late to save its territory.

They had no time to mobilize their armies. They were struck down by the ruthless and highly mechanized Hun before they could even bring their armies into the field

Great disasters have occurred in the Balkans. Yugoslavia has been beaten down. Only in the mountains can she continue her resistance. The Greeks have been overwhelmed. Their victorious Albanian Army has been cut off and forced to surrender and it has been left to the Anzacs and their British comrades to fight their way back to the sea, leaving their mark on all who hindered them.

I turn aside from the stony path we have to tread to indulge a moment of lighter relief. I dare say you have read in the newspapers that by a special proclamation the Italian dictator has congratulated the Italian Army in Albania on the glorious laurels they have gained by their victory over the Greeks

##### *"Record of the Contemptible"*

Here, surely, is the world record in the domain of the ridiculous and the contemptible. This whipped jackal, Mussolini, who to save his own skin has made all Italy a vassal State of Hitler's Empire, comes frisking up at the side of the German tiger with yelpings not only of appetite that could be understood—but even of triumph" . . .

April 28, 1941



## **SECTION THREE**

This part covers material from leading Newspapers and Magazines from March 22, 1941, through October 23, 1942. It includes Editorials, Special Features and Dispatches from the following correspondents, feature and editorial writers:

Robert S. Allen, Demaree Bess, Carroll Binder, Sam Brewer, Ray Brock, Cecil B. Brown, Constantine Brown, Wallace Carroll, Michael Chinigo, Daniel Deluce, Major George Fielding Eliot, M. W. Fodor, Joseph G. Harrison, Russell Hill, Leon Kay, Arthur Bliss Lane, Harold J. Laski, Walter Lippmann, Dewitt Mackenzie, R. H. Markham, Felix Morley, Edgar Ansel Mowrer, Barnet Nover, Col. Frederick Palmer, Drew Pearson, Harold Peters, Don Russell, Robert K. Shelly, Kirke L. Simpson, Robert St. John, Dorothy Thompson, Sonia Tomara, Andre Visson, David Maxwell Weil, John T. Whitaker, Leigh White, J. Emlyn Williams, Otto Zausmer and others.



## THE WASHINGTON MERRY-GO-ROUND

BY DREW PEARSON AND ROBERT S. ALLEN

(Editor's Note—The Brass Ring and a free ride on The Washington Merry-Go-Round go to Constantin Fotitch, the Yugoslav minister, who, next to Prince Paul, has tried hardest to keep his country out of the Axis.)

### SERVES HIS NATION WELL, EVEN IN 'EXILE'

WASHINGTON, March 22.—No matter what happens in the Balkans, the man who will go down in history—along with Prince Paul and Franklin Roosevelt—for trying hardest to keep Yugoslavia out of Hitler's grasp, will be a genial little man of peasant origin who represents the kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes as minister in Washington.

He is Constantin Fotitch, sent in virtual exile to Washington, but from that exile, his cabled warnings to Belgrade to keep out of the Axis and his influence with President Roosevelt proved a powerful support to the pro-British Prince Paul.

To get the full picture of what Fotitch has done, it is necessary to go back to the days when he was permanent Undersecretary of Foreign Affairs for the Yugoslav government and an important cog in the machinery of alliances built up by France to enforce the Versailles Treaty.

\* \* \*

The other cogs in that machinery were Dr. Edouard Benes of Czechoslovakia, the late Foreign Minister Nicolas Titulescu of Rumania, and for many years, Aristide Briand of France.

Czechoslovakia and Rumania, together with Yugoslavia, formed the Little Entente, a French-inspired alliance aimed to prevent both Germany and Hungary from ever regaining their territory in Southeast-Central Europe.

Several times yearly the working heads of the Little Entente met in Geneva, Prague, Bucharest, or Belgrade, and Fotitch usually represented Yugoslavia. He was the balance-wheel of the combination, frequently brushing away the brilliance of Titulescu or the dreams of Benes with his common-sense peasant logic.

Sometimes he quarreled with them and he now tells about one row with Titulescu of Rumania, who died only this week.

"Oh, he got very mad indeed over some difference of opinion," recalls Fotitch, "but later he regretted it and as a charming gesture of peace, made me a present of a beautiful Swiss watch.

"Some time later I found Briand in a despondent mood. He told me that he and Titulescu had quarreled. 'Think nothing of it', I told Briand. 'We too, quarreled, and look what came of it—he gave me this beautiful watch'.

"But our quarrel was worse than yours", said Briand with a twinkle in his eye. 'If he is to make up with me, it will cost nothing less than a grandfather clock!'"

\* \* \*

### *"Exile" to Washington*

Together, these men worked not only to bulwark their countries against Germany, but also to breathe life into the creaking peace machinery spawned by Woodrow Wilson. They failed.

Even before they failed, Constantin Fotitch had been sent into virtual exile as minister to the relatively unimportant post (for Balkan nations) of distant Washington.

Reason for his demotion was the fact that he had become about the most powerful civilian in Yugoslavia—too powerful for the army clique.

Fotitch had risen to this power from almost nothing. Born of a peasant family in the little Serbian city of Shabatz on the Danube, Fotitch had studied hard, taken the examinations for entry into the diplomatic service, and gradually climbed to the top.

During the last war he served as a cavalry officer, saw his native town half destroyed by the Austrians. Aside from that he has been a diplomat all his life.

In Europe before the war, most powerful civilian post in the average government was that of Permanent Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs. This was because, for a country whose borders touched half a dozen others, conduct of its foreign relations was a matter of life and death. And almost more important, the secret police reported direct to the under secretary.

But Fotitch began to lose favor with the Serbian military after the advent of Hitler. Some Yugoslav leaders began to propose the abandonment of the ties with France and closer co-operation with Germany. Fotitch disagreed—and in 1935 was sent to the United States.

Herald-American, March 22, 1941.

(Corp., 1941, United Feature Syndicate, Inc.)

### THE BATTLE OF BELGRADE

The most remarkable, as it may yet prove one of the most decisive, of the diplomatic battles for the life and liberty of a new Hitler victim is still being waged in Belgrade—amid what fears, what calculations, what threats and bribes, what subtle intrigues and terrific pressures one can only guess. Accustomed to it as we are by this time, one can still feel a sense of shock at this appalling method for settling the fate of whole peoples by the decisions of a handful of hard-pressed men taken in the deepest secrecy. But Yugoslavia, as a nation, has put up a harder fight than almost any of the others. The old Nazi technique of making dangerously attractive "compromise" offers has been brought to bear; but the Yugoslavs have forced the Germans to make higher bids, with more of genuine compromise in them, than other victims have been able to do. The Nazis are playing the full power of their disruptive diplomacy on the international divisions of the country, but though they have produced appeasement in the Cabinet, three Serb ministers have resigned and insisted upon their resignations, while the temper of the army is still defiant.

The length of the diplomatic struggle and the continued uncertainty as to its outcome reflect two things—the fiercely resistant spirit of the Serbs and the altered balance of forces in the Balkan Peninsula. The weight of the British, supporting the fighting Greeks, is making itself felt. Unfortunately, it is apparently not heavy enough to risk the attack upon the Nazis in Bulgaria and Rumania which would effectively disorganize the Nazi schedule; it is still defensive only. Hitler is still being allowed to develop a schematic attack—first reduce Bulgaria, then reduce Yugoslavia, then spring on the Greek border at his own times. But if the British have been unable to wreck the schedule, the Serbs have already filled it with delays and difficulties. There is a different balance in the Balkans, and it is too early to write off these most recent prospective victims.

(Editorial)

N. Y. Herald-Tribune, March 22, 1941.

## WHO ARE THESE SERBS? FIGHTERS FOR FREEDOM

BY R. H. MARKHAM

*Balkan Correspondent of The Christian Science Monitor  
now in the United States.*

Who are these Serbs who have attempted to defy Herr Hitler, these Serbs who stood under the shadow of his bombers, before the mouths of his cannon, and dared call a tyrant a tyrant?

They are mountain peasants or children of peasants who through four centuries of bondage sang of freedom, and a full century after that fought for freedom, taking every risk and making every sacrifice.

Who are these Serbs, who presume to tell the Nazi Fuhrer they'll never bow their knees and say "Heil" to him? They are the first group of Balkan men and women who dared raise the banner of revolt against Turkish Sultans.

Barely had the American colonists set up a free state, in which they hoped all men would be equal, barely had the French lower class plunged into an epochal struggle to break intolerable yokes of royal oppression, when Serbian shepherds and pigherds elected a leader, raised banners of revolt, took to the mountains, with muskets on their shoulders, and attacked Sultanic armies.

### *Dedicated to Freedom*

Songs of freedom rang through valleys and echoed over the passes.

Prayers for freedom were reverentially read in all the little, white-washed churches.

Strong, stern, hard-handed mothers dedicated their sons to freedom and, dry eyed, sent them to mountain rendezvous to strike a blow for freedom.

All the Serbs fought decades long to make freedom's dream come true. And it came true.

Who are these Serbs, who have gathered in great protest meetings and sent thousands of messages to Belgrade, urging the Government to stand firm? They are loyal, self-reliant, self-sustaining family people. They live in large, low, rambling houses scattered over the hills and in the woods. Each group of 25 or 30 members has been almost self-sufficient.

The family has all things in common; they co-operate in toil and in enjoying the fruits of toil. One member takes wheat to the brookside mill, another makes flour into bread, a third brings wood and chops it for the big oven, a fourth does the washing at the nearest stream; one tends the sheep and goats, another herds the pigs; one plows, another sows and in due time others hoe and harvest; all the women spin and weave, the men make moccasins, caps, copper kettles and pack saddles.

The hand-woven shirts are beautifully embroidered; the saddle bags are gorgeously colored, the moccasins have jaunty, curved toes, turned up provocatively, like the ears of an alert watch dog; the sheepskin caps all have little steeples, making the tall Serbs seem still taller.

### *Foe of Oppression*

The family grandpa or great grandpa tells all the family members never to be afraid, never to run away, and never to tolerate oppression. Those Serbian highlanders were masters of their highlands and masters of themselves! The Serbs sing many folk songs to mothers, and every mother has been exalted as a guardian of liberty.

Who are these Serbs, that feel they must take such an active part in governmental affairs? They're the men who organized the first powerful people's party in all South-

east Europe. They elected kings from their own midst and if those kings became tyrannical deposed them. Alone of all the Southeast Europeans, the Serbs have native kings. They scorn pretentious foreign dynasties. They make kings of their neighbors; if the king is worthy they serve him with unmatched loyalty, if not, they chase him out.

The Serbs set up one of Europe's very first peasant movements. It was called the Radical Party. Tall, gaunt, Serbian peasants, sleeping on dirt floors, unable to read a word of print, loved the word Radical. They accepted as a leader one of the boldest of Balkan men—tall, solemn, slow-tongued Nicholas Pashitch and they launched their party crusade with a revolution against local tyranny. They got rid of the tyrant and they came to power. The Serbs managed Serbia.

The second largest political group was the Democratic Party, and though its leaders, as most politicians, have failings, it has done honor to that name. The Serbian Democrats shamed democracy less than most other parties in most other lands, bearing that same name.

The third Serbian political group is called the Peasant Party. It flourishes among the Serbs outside of Serbia, especially among those in the recently liberated province of Bosnia. The Bosnians are the "Wild Westerners" of Yugoslavia. They are the boldest among the bold, the most daring of the daring.

It is this Peasant Party whose chiefs are now leading the Serbian opposition to the Nazis. The Bosnians are poor and primitive. They are the only Balkan people that within this generation has had to bear both Sultanic and Hapsburg yokes. The Bosnians have been doubly oppressed so have a doubly strong determination to preserve freedom now.

### *Fighters for Freedom*

Who are these Serbs, who so dauntlessly risk the provoking of terrible Nazi reprisals? They are members of the little nation, barely 3,000,000 strong, which in 1914 rejected a Hapsburg ultimatum, defied one of Europe's largest Empires and held back the mighty Hapsburg armies for a full year. They are men who, rather than bow their heads, left their homes and homeland, to wander in strange countries and to gather once more on a common battle front against oppressors.

Who are these isolated, provincial Serbs, living off the mainlines of traffic in peasant cabins and herdsmen's huts, that yet know so much about world affairs? Who are these Serbs, that, though half illiterate, yet know so much more about freedom than some college professors in other lands? Who are these rough-handed Serbs, that never saw a diplomat and never heard a courtier's flattery, yet understand Herr Hitler's wiles better than some Senators in some other countries? They are men and women who have learned from experience.

History, imperial struggles, despotic perfidy have been written into the lives of all their generations.

Every folk story and every folk song, half their peaks and all their mountain passes tell them of tyrants and of tyrants' politics. So they are wise with a direct and ultimate political wisdom, the wisdom that come from suffering.

### *Cling to Simple Faiths*

There are simple men and women, with unclouded minds and loyal hearts that make perception simple. They know what are the greatest values, what things come first,

what issues are supreme. They like money, but business as usual is not their greatest care.

They delight greatly in good living and in happy festivals, but they know some values are worth far more than passing happiness. They know the confining darkness of despotic dungeons; they know, too, the grand, exalting freedom of hills and highlands where men do not cower, nor bow their heads, nor bend their knees nor say words they know are lies.

Knowing slavery and knowing freedom, these men and women feel that no price is too great for freedom, and that no conceivable reward is great enough to make slavery seem good. So they took their stand. Where men and women of spirit have always taken it.

They could not win the day. They did not succeed in aligning their heterogeneous, insecure, inadequate united country against the Axis, but as these staunch, bold, clear-sighted peasants sit about crude, wooden tables today, to eat thin mutton stew and thick sour milk from common family bowls with misshapen tin spoons, they might be cheered to know they have given distant people a grand example of clear-visioned manliness.

March 24, 1941.

## **YUGOSLAVS FACE LOWLY ROLE IN NAZI ORBIT, VIEW**

**Nation to Join Hitler List of 'Inferior Peoples'—After a While.**

*(Special Dispatch from a Staff Correspondent)*

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BY EDGAR ANSEL MOWRER

WASHINGTON, March 26.—Only a miracle, in the opinion of Washington's political doctors, can now save Yugoslavia. There are miracles. But they happen infrequently. The chances are overwhelming that the Yugoslavs will go to join the other "inferior peoples" in Hitler's new European order. They will not be called "inferior" by the Germans—at least, not at first. But they will be thought "inferior" and everything points to the probability of their being shown to a subordinate place as workers in "Germany's granary" just as soon as the Nazis think it safe to lay hands upon them.

Were they betrayed by their rulers? Could Prince Paul and his chief advisers, the Yugoslav Prime Minister, his foreign minister, and his war minister have done anything else?

### *Resistance Would Be Suicide*

Not two months ago, surely. Resistance two months ago would have seemed suicidal. But with the British in Greece, the Greeks more than ever in arms, and the Italians on the run, not only might the Yugoslav Army have resisted and retreated intact right into Greece itself (most of the men were grouped in the South) but they might never have had to fight at all. For, with the Turks as silent partners, and the Greeks as active friends, the Yugoslavs would have been in a very strong position and the German generals might well have preferred limiting their assistance to the hard-pressed Italians in Albania rather than to take the risk of thrusting forward into Greece along the only path, the Struma Valley, which, even in the World War, was never the scene of any serious fighting.

Instead, Yugoslav rulers capitulated. It is not easy to see just why, since, from a distance, the fate of

Greece seems so much more luminous than that of Rumania. People in Washington speak of certain Yugoslav generals who had been reached by German "influence"; of commercial circles that stubbornly preferred "business" to national independence. Unless the people are able to overawe the yielding rulers at the last moment and reverse their decisions, independent Yugoslavia is no more.

### *Germans to Defer Taking Over*

This is not thought to mean that the Germans will try immediately to move in and take over the country. That would be stupid, indeed. The Serbs, if not the Croats and Slovenes, are jealous of their independence. They have been told that by joining the Axis they are keeping their freedom and their military autonomy. It would not do to undeceive them before they themselves consent to disarm.

Therefore if—the Germans prove as smart as usual—the more likely course is for them to spare Yugoslav susceptibilities for some time, until the people's suspicion can be lulled to sleep. Then and then only, the Germans can begin to move troops into the country and prepare the painless act of execution that will put an end to yet another free state.

That the American government considers Yugoslavia already conquered is shown by the alacrity with which the Treasury has added Yugoslav funds in this country to the money of the other victim countries that we are holding against their resurrection. These funds are not small—more than 40,000,000 in gold reserve of the government and perhaps 1,500,000 privately owned assets. More than 400,000 tons of Yugoslav bottoms are on the high seas and at least some of them may find their way into British hands.

### *Fotitch Respected in Washington*

Among all the members of the foreign diplomatic colony in Washington none enjoy higher esteem than the Yugoslav minister, Constantin M. Fotitch. Whatever happens to his country, he can be sure of his future. Moreover, people in this city suspect that as the German grip tightens, yet before Yugoslavia breathes its last gasp, a group of determined patriots will break away, leave the country and set themselves up outside as a temporary government of free men. If this happens, Minister Fotitch may have someone to serve and work with after all.

What then are Hitler's plans once his conquest of Yugoslavia is an accomplished fact?

The most likely is thought to be an attempt to intimidate Turkey. But, whether this succeeds or not, a blitz on Greece and then occupation of Salonika should follow. He may conceivably stop a while.

Yet, in any case, Prince Paul's capitulation is a great victory for Germany, a great blow for the British, a terrible influence in the Near East—and must be considered as such.

## **ANOTHER VICTIM**

### **YUGOSLAVIA SURRENDERS**

BY BARNET NOVER

Yesterday in Vienna Yugoslavia signed her own death warrant. In return, Hitler has agreed to postpone the execution. He could well afford to be generous. For he has received from the trembling hands



of Prince Paul and the latter's associates the essential concessions he wanted from them.

The Regent, Premier Cvetkovitch and Foreign Minister Cincar-Markovitch will no doubt argue that they made the best of a bad situation. They will point out that Yugoslavia is isolated; that she is all but surrounded by Axis territory; that along her eastern borders in Rumania and Bulgaria powerful German army has been assembled, and that there is nothing to prevent Hitler from using that army against Yugoslavia.

They will add that, despite the extremely difficult position in which their country found itself when Hitler began to put pressure on it to join the Axis, Yugoslavia avoided doing what Rumania and Bulgaria had done. Her territory is not to be occupied by German troops. Her army is not to be demobilized. Nor are German troops to be given the right of using Yugoslavia as a corridor for an attack on Greece.

It is true that, on the surface, the German-Yugoslav pact is limited in the obligations it imposes on the Balkan kingdom and restricted in the rights it grants the Reich. But the distinction between Yugoslav's adherence to the Axis and the adherence of Rumania and Bulgaria is a distinction without an essential difference.

A movement of German troops into Yugoslavia at this time would have caused the guns to go off by themselves. During these last weeks the Yugoslav people have made it clear beyond a doubt that they loathed and detested what their rulers were planning to do in their name. They were ready to follow the example of Greece and fight rather than submit voluntarily to the destruction of their independence. As it happens, the last thing that Hitler wants in the Balkans is a war of any magnitude. And while Yugoslavia is seriously short of modern mechanized equipment, she has some of the best fighting men in Europe.

For the time being it is enough for Hitler that the Belgrade government has agreed, even if in limited degree, to subordinate Yugoslavia's sovereignty to the Axis, to take a step which divides the nation in a manner that may ultimately paralyze her present capacity to resist occupation, to drive a wedge between Yugoslavia and her friend and neighbor, Greece. Hitler can, for the moment, be content with the diplomatic victory he has won. If necessary, Yugoslavia's capitulation can be made use of in a military way later on. In that connection, the most important clause in the treaty is not the one giving Germany the right to send war supplies and wounded across Yugoslavia but the one which commits the Belgrade government to suppress anti-Axis elements in the nation. Literally applied that means war by the Yugoslav government against the Yugoslav people. And if Belgrade proves loath to carry out that pledge Hitler would have excuse enough to declare the Vienna pact violated and therefore freed of the restriction regarding the dispatch of German troops through that country.

The German-Yugoslav pact is bad news for the Greeks and their British allies even though they may be grateful to the Yugoslav people for having forced their government to delay action on that pact and thus made possible the dispatch of British reinforcements to Greece. But some comfort can be gleaned in London and Athens over the restatement by Russia of her friendship for Turkey.

This time Russia did not wait until Hitler had presented the world with an accomplished fact before manifesting her displeasure. The pledge to Turkey not to attack her if Turkey is attacked by another power but to remain fully and comprehensively neutral was given on the eve of the Vienna meeting. This action suggests that the Red Bear is beginning, at long last, to stir out of his lethargy. But too much significance should not be read into the Kremlin's move.

A stronger Russian stand taken earlier might have spared Yugoslavia the necessity and the humiliation of capitulating to Hitler. It might even have made possible the creation of a Balkan coalition consisting of Yugoslavia, Greece and Turkey and capable of serving as a real barrier to a German drive to the south. No such stand was taken.

Russia kept her mysterious counsel until almost the very last. And when she did move it was wholly in a defensive manner. There is no offer of Russian aid to Turkey if the latter nation is made the victim of aggression. There is not even a guarantee that Russia will live up to the pledges embodied in the Russo-Turkish communique should Turkey agree to aid Great Britain and Greece.

The presumption is that the Ankara government, now that it has been freed of the fear of Russian stab in the back, will be able to act more boldly as Britain's ally. Whether that presumption is valid or not remains to be seen. About all that can be said of the latest Russian maneuver is that it suggests that the German-Russian honeymoon that began after the marriage of convenience in August, 1939, is about over. But it is much too early to mention the word divorce. Russia's notice to Germany that there are limits to German expansion is elliptical rather than forthright, suggestive rather than plain spoken. It will not bring about any change in Hitler's immediate plans. It is doubtful if an attack on Turkey was his objective at this time, anyway. There will be time enough to take on that country when and if the Greco-Italian war has forcibly been brought to an end and German legions are on the Aegean. Then Turkey would find herself in the position in which Yugoslavia found herself these last weeks. Perhaps she will profit by the latter's experience before it is too late.

Washington Post, March 26, 1941.

### YUGOSLAVIA SUCCUMBS

Yesterday, at Vienna, Hitler annexed a volcano, and it may prove no easy matter for him to keep it from erupting. For while he succeeded in forcing the key members of the Yugoslav cabinet into signing a pact which made the triune kingdom a member of the Axis, he must still reckon with the explosive forces which that development may unleash. During recent days, Yugoslav public opinion has made clear its fierce opposition to the action which the government has now taken. The country seethes with revolt, and even if for a while the lid is kept on it, it may sooner or later throw the entire nation into convulsions.

For the time being, however, there can be no minimizing the magnitude of the diplomatic coup

which Hitler has scored. Yugoslavia is the largest nation in the Balkans and contains some of the best soldiers to be found in the peninsula. Had the Belgrade government stood firm, had it joined forces with Greece and Turkey, a powerful barrier would have been erected to Germany's drive to the Aegean. But Prince Regent Paul and his closest advisers would not have it that way. They were fascinated and frightened by the massed German armies on Yugoslavia's long-drawn northern and eastern borders. They felt that resistance was out of the question because of the lack of mechanized equipment and planes from which their country suffers. Accordingly they gave way, though not before they had wrested certain concessions, or what look like concessions, out of Hitler.

The prime concession is that Yugoslavia will not immediately have to submit, as did Rumania and Bulgaria before her, to the humiliating experience of having her territory occupied by German troops. In Yugoslavia's case the country would be used as a base of operations against a neighboring land with whom, as it happens, Yugoslavia has been on the friendliest terms. By joining the Axis she will also, at least for the time being, avoid invasion and war. Yet the concessions made by Belgrade to Berlin are real and may prove far-reaching. It is understood, for instance, that Yugoslavia has agreed to permit the transit of German war supplies and wounded across her frontiers. Yugoslavia thus becomes the nonbelligerent ally of the Axis and is tied to Hitler's war chariot. Joachim von Ribbentrop allowed no illusions to persist in Yugoslavia that that country is neutral any longer. "The hitherto neutral Balkans," he said, referring to Yugoslavia, Bulgaria and Rumania, "now have come into the camp of the new order in a body."

Yugoslavia, having taken this first fatal step, will now certainly be under constant pressure to move further and faster in the direction that Hitler finds it useful from his point of view for the kingdom to move. Yet, with a hostile public opinion to contend with, the immediate benefits which Hitler may derive from the Yugoslav signature may be outweighed by its long-run disadvantages.

The pact is clearly a blow at Greece and Britain. Those hard-pressed nations can comfort themselves with the thought that Belgrade's resistance to the Axis, even though it finally ended in capitulation, did give the British time to send reinforcements to Greece. And there is also the offsetting fact that on the eve of Yugoslavia's adherence to the Axis on a limited basis, Russia saw fit to renew her pledge of friendship to Turkey. This should considerably ease the Turkish position. It was fear of what Russia might do that inhibited action by Ankara in execution of Turkey's pledges under the Anglo-Turkish alliance. Turkey has now been informed by Moscow that "if Turkey be attacked and be obliged to enter the war for the purpose of defending her territory," she could "rely upon the complete neutrality and understanding of the Soviet Union." This development only partially and tentatively checkmates Hitler's Yugoslav triumph. It indicates, however, that German's diplomatic victories have a worm in them.

(Editorial)

Washington Post, March 26, 1941.

## YUGOSLAVIA SIGNS

Still another desperate effort to beat the game, to play it both ways and "stay out of war," ended in the Belvedere Palace at Vienna yesterday in the usual fashion; and as the iron censorship immediately clanged down over Belgrade like the closing of the prison door, the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes were left to contemplate their grim future in the "new order" with what satisfaction they may. The game which Herr Hitler has loosed upon the world cannot be played both ways; and perhaps the one thing certain about the agreement is that the Yugoslav government, whatever else it may have done, has not stayed out of war. It has averted immediate hostilities. But it has done so by pledging its freedom, its national unity and probably its national existence—pledges which can now be redeemed, if at all, only by fighting in the future.

The put up a longer diplomatic battle than any other of Hitler's recent victims and were able to extort somewhat better terms from the Nazi power. In return for submission they got a promise that their territory would not be violated, and they were not, apparently, required to demobilize their army. With these clauses they have preserved a certain bargaining position, both within the Axis and in respect to the British; they have retained a little ballast wherewith to ride the immediate hurricane. But the price the government has paid for this is to disqualify itself for any consideration from the ultimate victor in the war, whichever side wins.

Assuming that Prince Paul succeeds in carrying his country through in more or less its present state, without civil war, internal dissolution or invasion, at the end of the journey he will only find the British, if they win, with no reason to reward a desertion; or else the Nazis, totally uninterested in a "subject race" which proved so reluctant and obstructive an ally. But the assumption is an unlikely one; the guarantees against violation of territory are only the worthless Nazi promises, with the pretexts for breaking them almost flagrantly provided in the other clauses of the agreement, and few things seem more probable than that Yugoslavia will be either a battlefield or a concentration camp, or both, in short order. One wonders what unspoken thoughts passed between Count Ciano and Premier Cvetkovich at the signing ceremony.

For the Yugoslavs the prospect is not a pretty one. For the Greeks and British, however, there are two mitigations of this diplomatic reverse. Momentarily, at least, the Vardar Valley approach to Salonika remains closed (even though the Nazi problem of supply to a Macedonian front is greatly eased); while the Kremlin has been prodded to speak again. The accents are as obscure as before, but they come with greater emphasis and greater promptness than in the Bulgarian affair. One must leave the interpretation to whatever experts there may be in the dark subject of Soviet psychology and foreign relations—but these evidences of some dawning alarm in the Stalin mentality over the consequences of the policy of letting the Western "capitalisms" kill each other off are probably not the least significant aspects of the rolling Balkan crisis. We have not seen the end in that area even yet.

(Editorial)

New York Herald-Tribune, March 26, 1941.

## THIS CHANGING WORLD

### Gen. Simovich, Who Heads Revolt, Is Brilliant Officer-Friend of Britain.

BY CONSTANTINE BROWN

The situation in the Balkans which only 24 hours ago appeared hopeless for the Allies took a dramatic turn in their favor when the Yugoslav Army rebelled and put on the throne young King Peter. There is no question any longer that the surrender of Vienna will be thrown in the junk-heap.

Gen. Dusan Simovich is one of the most brilliant officers of the Yugoslav Army. He was shelved by the Prince Regent Paul several weeks ago because of his belligerent attitude toward the axis. Representing the true feelings of the army, he warned the regent and the cabinet that any arrangement with Germany which the country would interpret as a surrender was bound to create serious disturbances. Furthermore, he informed the cabinet and the regency that the army, although lacking many of the modern weapons, is so well trained that it could resist the pressure of the Germans.

Simovich was suspected in Belgrade of being a "tool of the British." He was outspoken in his criticism of the Marcovic government and said openly that the British can bring into Yugoslavia enough war material to jeopardize all the plans of the Germans in the Balkans. The Yugoslav-Greek-British Army, he said, supported by the modern war equipment which reached the Greek ports at the rate of an average of 15 transports a day is sufficient to resist the German pressure, temporarily suspended.

The result of Simovich's "campaign" was his temporary retirement from the army. Some of the faithful followers of the Germans urged his arrest. But the government did not dare touch him because it feared a revolutionary outbreak in the ranks of the army.

Young King Peter, who is due to become of age when he reaches 18 in July of this year, is a serious-minded youngster who has been brought up by the best college professors in the country. But his chief mentor was Gen. Kossitch, the chief of the general staff who endeavored for the last three years to instill in the King's mind the old Serbian tradition of fighting for the country's freedom, disregarding the odds. It is reliably reported in Belgrade that at the Vienna meeting between the heads of the former Yugoslav government and Herr von Ribbentrop it had been agreed that in view of the present situation it would be advisable if the King were not intrusted with full royal powers until after the present emergency was over. That is to say, Prince Paul would have been kept on as chief regent until the world war was ended—regardless of the fact that King Peter was due to be crowned sometime this summer.

From the scant reports received in official quarters here, it appears that Gen. Kossitch played an important role in determining King Peter to take over the reins of government. Prince Paul, who was a weakling rather than a traitor, is said to have agreed to the transfer with delight. The responsibility for a man of his type, who hated to put on a uniform and review troops, was too great and he realized that the country was bound to go through trials which it had never known before.

## Not to Challenge Germans

According to reports received from Belgrade the new government does not intend to challenge the Germans. It will maintain a strict neutrality, but knows full well that this won't be possible long. The Germans are said to have been informed that as long as the Reich wants only economic advantage from Yugoslavia the new government is willing to co-operate with the Reich on a footing of equality. But the neutrality of the country must be strictly preserved and there can be no military or even hospital trains going through Yugoslav territory.

The new Belgrade government has no illusions that Hitler will henceforth consider the Yugoslavs as traitors.

He received a personal smack in the face—the first serious one since the outbreak of the war—at a most inopportune moment when Japan's Foreign Minister Matsuoka was going to be shown what German power and prestige meant.

There are few indications so far as to what the Germans will do, but it is believed that Berlin will consider King Peter as an usurper and treat the new Yugoslav government as a bunch of rebels.

### *Punishment for Yugoslavia*

In military quarters here it is believed that for the time being the Germans will have to swallow their anger and get ready as quickly as possible to punish Yugoslavia with a blitz of the first magnitude. Unfortunately for the Germans, the bombers can do little harm to that country. There are no historical monuments and no industrial towns in Serbia proper where the Yugoslav resistance will be concentrated. Belgrade is a comparatively new town—as far as the buildings are concerned. Outside the capital there are few other cities in the country worthy of that name. The western towns in Slovenia and Croatia will not be in the theater of operations. Should the Germans attack the country, the whole region north of the Danube will be evacuated by the Army, which made its plans for resistance several years ago. The great bulk is even now concentrated in the region south of Nish.

The coup d'etat which occurred last night in Belgrade has thrown a very serious monkey wrench in the German plans. Instead of having a quiet occupation of the Balkans, with a minor war against Greece, the German high command must now reckon on a long war with serious consequences for the Reich. There is no question that henceforth the British will send to Greece—and eventually to Yugoslavia—all the necessary war material to enable the 1,400,000 men both countries have now mobilized to fight the German aggression.

Washington, Evening Star, March 27, 1941.

## SLAVE OR FREE? SERBIA TAKES ITS STAND

BY R. H. MARKHAM

Staff Writer of *The Christian Science Monitor*

Serbia asserts itself. The same Balkan nation which first dared defy Turkish Sultans and broke the yoke of century-old slavery has also been the first to defy Axis dictators and throw off the yoke of a new enslaving treaty. One of the bravest peoples on the

continent of Europe was driven to a crossroad, where it had to make a quick and momentous choice, and it chose what it firmly believes to be right.

These stern, resolute Serbian peasants had two pictures very clearly before their eyes. In one picture they saw a crushed Bohemia, and a helpless, wretched little Slovakia trailing in the dust behind goose-stepping Nazi despoilers. They also saw Rumania thrown prostrate to the earth, and left with only enough strength to salute masters, whom they hated.

They saw Nazi troops pouring into Bulgaria, occupying towns and cities, seizing telephone and telegraph systems, controlling newspapers and turning a free people into slaves. They saw their ally, Greece, struggling for liberty in a way that would have cheered Pericles in Athens, or made Leonidas proud at Thermopolae, and they perceived that they were to be used as a tool for destroying that brave ally which was fighting for a cause dearer to the Serbs than anything on earth.

#### *Saw Picture Vividly*

They saw men cringing all about them, bending their knees and uttering lies they knew were lies. They saw all elemental honor disappearing, all Europe disintegrating and all basic moral norms debased. The Serbs are simple, plain men of the open air and open fields and undimmed skies, so they saw that picture straight.

But they also saw another picture, and it, too, was very grim. They saw that if they chose aright, according to the dictates of honor, morality, liberty and in harmony with all the songs, stories, proverbs and patriarchal admonitions they had nourished for 15 generations, they would be attacked by Nazi cannon and Nazi planes.

They saw burnt homes, ruined cities, ravaged vineyards, fields laid waste and families destroyed. They remembered—every Serbian man and woman, from personal experience, how only 25 years ago their land had been overrun, neighbors had been massacred, all adult men had been separated from their loved ones and driven by invading armies into a long distant exile.

#### *Bitterness of Remembrance*

The Serbs remembered that their livestock had all been taken, most bridges had been blown up, their railway lines partially demolished and their little mountain land left largely desolate.

They remembered elemental things; hunger, cold, suffering, the cruel arrogance of invaders, the billeting of foreign soldiers in their little houses. All Serbs saw clearly that if they defied the Nazis they might immediately be attacked, their land invaded, one province after another torn away, and that the master of the mightiest army in Europe might—decree the end of Yugoslavia—as it not so long ago decreed the end of Austria.

The Serbs, who live at the vortex of history and know international reality as they know their neighbor, clearly foresaw what must happen, yet they did not hesitate to make their choice for freedom.

They were true to themselves. They have a character, formed by a score of generations and that character spoke. They have convictions, passed down from father to son, from mother to daughter.

#### *"Suoboda" Cherished*

They assemble at market places, and seasonal fairs, they have many family festivals, at which relatives gather from far and near. And at all these places, on all these occasions, they sing songs, they tell folk tales, they repeat poetry, they listen to native troubadours, they relive the whole epic of their history. And on every page of that epic is the word "suoboda," freedom.

Their churchmen tell Serbs of freedom. The ardent teacher in the little one-roomed village school tells them of freedom. All their history books tell of freedom. Their whole literature glows with accounts of heroes fighting for freedom. Every single political campaign is a crusade for some kind of freedom.

The native dramas in the state theater at Belgrade portray struggles for freedom. Their folk hero, legendary "Marko, the King's Son" on his big white horse, is a galloping, jovial, ferocious knight of freedom. Their whole literature glows with accounts of dynasty of the Karageorges, from old Black George, a Serb farmer, who led his neighbors in a fight against Sultanistic despots.

#### *Setting for Heroism*

And the setting for these troubadours, for these tales at market places, these churches where Bible verses about freedom are read, and these sentimental family festivals, where men and women sometimes weep after hearing moving epic songs—the setting for all this are hills and woods, gulleys, deep sweeping valleys, a few august peaks, many austere defiles. It is the setting for freedom; it is an ideal stage for heroic action.

History itself has painted in the decorations, filling the scene with Lexingtons, Concord, Bunker Hills and Yorktowns. Peaks and woods and crags and passes all have intimate names and are as intimate companions, for each one marks a place where some Serb sometime made a stand for freedom.

On this stage are no castles, no grand estates, no walls that shut out common people, no grand manor house upon the hill with squalid hut beside the gulch for serfs and servants. Every Serb, though poor, was a master, and every humble house, even with earthen floors, was as a manor. Freedom they saw in the hills, freedom they breathed in the air, freedom they heard in the songs of their birds and the call of wild animals, freedom they felt in the gallops of their restless mountain horses.

#### *Voice of History*

Now all that history and all that sentiment has spoken in these Serbian people. It is not the result of mass action, no mob is in motion. This comes not from any propaganda, except the inescapable propaganda of a half millenium of history and the emperious propaganda of a national character speaking from the skies of dawn, the stars of night, the wind blowing over the hills, the firm steps of grandpas who have not bowed their heads and of Serbian children looking to the future. The only propaganda was the irresistible command of a nation's innermost conviction.

Serbia's common people took their stand. They came from village and town. They were merchants, pig raisers, lawyers. The church spoke in tones as

thunderous as that of Joshua who cried "Choose you this day, whom you will serve!"

The High School spoke, as boys and girls in a hundred towns launched demonstrations. The University spoke. The political parties spoke. Co-operatives and peasant unions spoke. Writers and journalists spoke. Artisans pounding copper kettles or making pack saddles for donkeys, women washing clothes beside the brook or carrying loaves of bread on long boards to public ovens for baking—all spoke.

#### *The People Dictate*

They spoke words not taught by dictator, but coming from their hearts. They spoke their own words. They dictated.

Loudest of all spoke the army, a people's army. From the time of the first Black George the Serbs have used the army as a vehicle for imposing their will. All Serbian men are in the army. There is no officers' class. Privates and officers come from the same home. There is no gulf between them. Serbian officers, unlike all others in the Balkans, may ride third class and many of them do. A Serbian captain sits on a wooden bench beside a private and beside a peasant woman with a kerchief over her head and moccasins on her feet.

The Serbs never revolt against their army. They revolt through their army. All of the many Serbian revolutions are made by the army. The people's army has always been the ultimate means for an expression of the people's will.

It is early to predict the result of this action; but one thing seems plain, that the boldest Balkan nation has shown itself true to its long traditions of independence.

#### *Markham Authority on News of Balkans*

Few contemporary writers have a more intimate knowledge of the Balkans than R. H. Markham, for many years The Christian Science Monitor's correspondent in southeastern Europe.

He knows the peoples of Yugoslavia as friends among whom he has lived and traveled.

Back in the United States, Mr. Markham writes of Serbia's latest travail and of the social and historic factors which influence the Serbian's dramatic revolt against capitulation to the Axis.

March 27, 1941.

### **COUP IN YUGOSLAVIA CALLED SEVERE JOLT TO HITLER PLANS**

BY CARROLL BINDER

[Foreign Editor of The Chicago Daily News]  
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Whatever the ultimate consequences of today's upheaval in Yugoslavia—and they may be far reaching—it is already clear that the overthrow of the coterie of politicians that made the pact with Germany is a severe blow to Germany's plans and a corresponding boon to Great Britain, Greece, Turkey and other anti-Axis nations.

What Germany wanted most in Yugoslavia and the rest of the Balkans was peace, so that the flow of badly needed copper, bauxite, grain and other products of this productive region to the hungry German hine would not be interrupted.

The new regime is much less likely to make such deliveries to Germany than was the "gypsy" regime that has just been ousted. If Germany endeavors to force collections by sending in its armed forces it may precipitate hostilities, which, in addition to creating the "second front" Germany has tried so hard to avoid, is bound to disrupt both mineral and agricultural production for a considerable period.

Meantime the position of the already hard-pressed Italians becomes increasingly precarious in Albania.

#### *"Buy Them" Plan Fails*

It is a tough spot for the Germans, who thought they had fixed everything by buying up large numbers of Yugoslav politicians, generals and businessmen as they previously had successfully done in Rumania, Hungary and Bulgaria.

But the Germans failed to take account of the fact that numerous important Yugoslavs had not been bought and that others who may have taken German favors did not choose to deliver what had been paid for. Hence their present consternation.

Gen. Simovic, the air-force commander, who appears to be the moving spirit in the new regime, has the reputation of being loyal to the British, French and others who helped his country achieve independence in the first World War and of being an intimate friend of Gen. Papagos, the Greek commander in chief, and of the head of the Turkish general staff. His government seems certain to collaborate more closely with the governments of Greece and Turkey than did that of the ousted Premier Cvetkovic.

Cvetkovic and his foreign minister, Cincar-Markovic, are both of gypsy stock and their regime was popularly known as the "gypsy government." Cvetkovic, who is exceedingly swarthy in appearance, was never noted for physical or moral courage. Prince Paul, the ousted regent, is also deemed to be a timid character, especially for one who is a member of the Kara-Georgevic clan which has long exercised a dominant influence on Serbian and Yugoslav affairs—partly through its willingness to use violence to achieve its ends.

#### *Paul an Appeaser*

Educated at Oxford, Prince Paul's principal English associations have been with the Astors and others of the pre-war appeasement group. He adhered to his appeasement views when he took over authority in Yugoslavia in 1934 after the assassination of his cousin King Alexander.

The boy king Peter is presumably too young and inexperienced to have pronounced political principles, so it may be assumed that the men who have seized the government with the enthusiastic approval of the potent and militantly anti-Axis Serbian Orthodox Church, the Peasant party and a considerable section of the Army will decide Yugoslavia's policies so long as Germany does not succeed in overthrowing their regime.

The backbone of the revolt appears to have been furnished by the Serbian section of the nation, but those who are well acquainted with the Croats say that it is a libel on them to characterize them as pro-German. Though not so militant and warlike as the Serbs, the Croats are ardently antitotalitarian and pro-democratic. Prior to the first World War, they

forced the Hungarian government to grant them autonomy and it is unlikely that they would willingly collaborate with the Germans.

It is expected that the new regime will have the cordial approval of both Turkey and Russia as well as of Great Britain and Turkey.

Chicago Daily News, March 27, 1941

### THIS CHANGING WORLD

#### Yugoslav Army Upsets Hitler's Applegate; Now He'll Have to Fight With Cards Stacked

BY CONSTANTINE BROWN

The well-disciplined and intensely patriotic citizens' army of Yugoslavia has thrown a monkey wrench into Hitler's war plans by permitting the Allies to establish a second war front.

It is conceded in political and military circles that the change which occurred in Belgrade only 24 hours after the Italians and the Germans shouted "victory" is bound to influence materially the aspect of the present war.

There is no longer a question of the axis concentrating all its might against the British in a total war. Berlin henceforth will be compelled to consider the Balkans as an almost equally important theater of operations. And in many aspects it is likely that it will drain more of Germany's resources than the campaign against England.

That there will be a real war in the Balkans now appears inevitable. Hitler cannot afford to have his face slapped and his well-laid plans challenged. Although there was no stage-setting as far as the opponents of the Nazis in Yugoslavia are concerned, the timing which brought about the overthrow of the Marcovic government could not have been more ideally chosen so far as the Allies are concerned.

The new government kicked the Vienna treaty into the ash can at the moment when Foreign Minister Matsuoka arrived in Berlin to be given a royal reception. And during those festivities Hitler "lost face."

In order to repair the damage, the Germans will have to fight—and fight hard—with the cards stacked against them for the first time since September, 1939.

The German general staff has endeavored to avoid a war on two fronts.

#### *Couldn't Corrupt Serb Army*

Weak nations like Hungary, Rumania and Bulgaria gave in without opposition. It must be said for the first two nations that they were quite a distance from the nearest British base of operations. Had they wanted to resist the Germans, they could not have counted on any material help from Great Britain.

Once the British began to come in large numbers to Greece and showed definitely their intention of eventually fighting the Germans from the Balkans, the German high command had to watch the situation.

Bulgaria was easy prey for the Nazis. But Bulgaria was only a relatively unimportant advanced post for the Reich. The real key to the Balkans was Yugoslavia.

Now the situation presents itself as follows: Hitler cannot put his military machine in reverse. Abandon-

ing the fight in the Balkans would make a catastrophic impression on his own people in Germany. It would be interpreted anywhere as a sign that the colossus from Berlin has clay feet. And Hitler can't afford to be another Mussolini. Furthermore, if he were to adopt a purely defensive attitude and not proceed with all his might against the Yugoslavs, it wouldn't be long before the British and the Greeks would take the offensive, supported by the Turks and the Serbs, against the Germans in Rumania and in Bulgaria. Hitler is vulnerable in the Balkans.

Hence, he can do only one thing. To proceed with all the power of the German Army against the Allies.

#### *Breathing Spell for British*

According to military observers, Hitler may have to postpone his operations against Greece until his Balkan army has been substantially strengthened. The reported 600,000 men the Germans now have in the Balkans are no longer sufficient. The Yugoslav Army is 900,000 strong; another 300,000 can be called to the colors without straining the manpower of the country. The Greeks have about 400,000 men under arms on both the Italian and the Bulgarian borders, while the British have at least 80,000 fighting men. Even if Turkey were to be left out as a neutral—a most unlikely situation in the light of the new developments—the Germans would need an army at least to equal the present Yugoslav-Greek-British forces. This means they will be compelled to double their present strength. Germany has the advantage of operating on interior lines. This means that they can transport another 600,000 men in about eight weeks. During this time the British will be able to pour large quantities of war material of all kinds into the Balkan Peninsula. We, who have pledged ourselves definitely to assist any nation fighting for its independence, will be expected to do everything possible to aid the Balkan fighters.

But the Yugoslav action is important other than from a strictly military point of view. That country has been supplying the Reich with something like 30 per cent of its needed footstuffs during the past few years. Yugoslavia sent more hogs to Germany than all other European countries, and the Bor Mines, which have been developed in Yugoslavia by the French and the British since 1920, were an important asset to German industry. All this will now belost to the Reich.

Washington Evening Star, March 28, 1941.

#### PETER OF YUGOSLAVIA: ROYAL SYMBOL OF LIBERTY

#### Boy King, Facing Mighty Task, Joins Brave Band of Monarchs Who Have Defied Hitler.

BY R. H. MARKHAM

*Balkan Correspondent of The Christian Science Monitor who is now in the United States*

King Peter II of Yugoslavia has added his name to the list of six European monarchs who dared oppose Adolf Hitler.

Of them, three are in exile — Carol of Rumania, Haakon of Norway, and Wilhelmina of Holland. A fourth, Leopold of Belgium capitulated and sits as a



virtual captive in an occupied land. A fifth, George of Great Britain, has often been under Nazi bombs. A sixth, George of Greece, is in the midst of a destructive war. It is a group of courageous men and women, that young Peter has just joined.

He has taken an heroic step. Of course, he didn't take it on his own initiative, nor solely as a result of his own will. Peter, whom his subjects call "Pehtar," and his mother "Petrushka," is the ruler of an unstable state, containing 16,200,000 heterogeneous subjects, who are in great danger, and in such a situation, an inexperienced, rather retiring 17-year-old boy would not make momentous decisions all by himself. He was placed upon the throne by other factors. He is an instrument used to serve his nation. Still, he is also a person, a lively sensible, lovable youth, who had to give his consent to a perilous experiment. He made a brave and very unselfish decision.

The statement that 17-year-old Peter didn't suddenly arise and seize the reigns of power doesn't mean that some boys of his age haven't been strong and independent rulers. Alexander of Macedon, for whom Peter's father was named, led an army division in a very vital battle, at 18 years of age. And in the very city of Belgrade, where Peter just accepted full royal power, another young Prince Alexander, at the age of 17, solely by his own decision and for his own interests, arranged a revolution, in 1893, overthrew a Regency, assumed complete authority, and managed Serbia's affairs as a wilful tyrant.

#### *Enormous Responsibilities*

But Peter has not been of this kind. Never very forward, he became even more retiring after his father's assassination six and a half years ago. That tragedy thrust enormous responsibilities upon him, from which almost any lad would have recoiled. At no time since then has Peter pushed himself before the public and when he did appear, on great occasions, he seemed quiet, and very thoughtful. He has spent most of his time in study, work and play in a small circle of companions. He has been serious, though not profoundly studious. He knows something of the modern European languages, but prefers Serbian to any of them. He has received good marks, but likes outdoor activity better than books.

He enjoys tools, finds pleasure in making things, revels in swimming, camping, riding. However, he is no husky "Wild Westerner." He does not resemble Alexander the Great who at a tender age rode broncos in the very hills contained in Peter's present kingdom. He is not exactly a "he-man" or "regular feller." As the little king, he is called in Serbian, Kraljevitch, and probably most Serbs would be rather pleased if Peter resembled a little more their legendary Kraljevitch Marko with the daring white steed. Marko carried a big club, wore long mustaches, laughed boisterously and was quick to display his physical prowess.

#### *Grandfather Peter*

However, this boy, too, is a typical Serb and a typical Karageorge—his ancestral name. He has many traits quite like those of his grandfather, King Peter, who was grandson of the first Black George. Grandfather Peter, when a youth, lived in Switzerland, in exile. He went to school as an ordinary stu-

dent, became imbued with liberal ideals and even translated John Stuart Mills into Serbian. He was called back to Belgrade, in 1903 the capital of little Serbia, under very critical circumstances, after a revolution. King Alexander, the one who had wilfully seized power as a boy and exercised it as a despot, had been assassinated by an army conspiracy and Peter was invited home to occupy the vacant throne. That very same army yesterday brought about another revolution.

The first Peter, though by no means glamorous, and in no respect a star, proved a very good king, was much loved, and before the end of his career received the two official titles of "Peter the Great" and "Peter the Liberator." It was under his reign that all the South Slavs were freed and joined in an independent South Slav (Yugoslavia) Kingdom.

Grandfather Peter was practically the only Serbian king whose reign was not violently interrupted. After he had fulfilled the most glorious mission a Serb could imagine and finished in 1918 the revolutionary work of his ancestor, Black George, had begun in 1804, after he had helped crush both the Sultanate and the Hapsburg Empires and freed all the long subjugated Serbs from both, he passed on the scepter to his son Alexander, the father of the present young Peter.

Alexander, known as Alexander the Unifier, since he tried to unify the peoples his father had liberated, was a serious, hard-handed ruler.

For the first 10 years of his reign he found the task of unifying Yugoslavia extremely difficult, but stuck to parliamentary methods. Disunity and discord only increased, however, and to bring the Serbs and Croats together he finally tried the desperate method of coercion. He established an unmitigated royal dictatorship. That aroused furious opposition from the Croats, who were the most bitterly persecuted, and in October, 1934, the present king's father was assassinated.

The young king appears to be a good deal like his father. He is tall, thin, agile, with a long face and a pleasant smile. In all that he is classically Serbian, a "Shoumadiets" (man of the hills). No Serbian king was ever brought to the throne on a greater wave of devotion and hope. The Serbs are king makers and never did they show such enthusiasm in their king-making as yesterday. But they have placed a boy in a position of prodigious difficulty.

The Christian Science Monitor, Friday, March 28, 1941.

#### **ALL SECTIONS OF YUGOSLAVIA GIVE BEST MEN FOR CABINET**

*Written for The Christian Science Monitor*

The new Yugoslav cabinet shows, by its nature and composition, that the revolutionary change of government and policy that has just taken place is something more than the act of a military or political clique. It is one of the broadest national cabinets Yugoslavia ever had.

Practically all of the ministers are civilians, not active soldiers. They may govern as a dictatorship, but one that was formed by the people to serve the people in a crisis, not one imposed by a little group of conspirators.



All Yugoslavia's political groups, except the "Quislingovitches," are represented in the new cabinet. So are all three of the leading racial groups: Serbs, Croats and Slovenes.

The Serbs, inside and outside Serbia proper, have four historic parties: The Radical, the Democrat, the Agrarian and the Independent Democrat. The Croats have one loyal party, embracing practically all Croats, it is the Croatian Peasant Party. The principal political group in Slovenia is the Peoples Party. All these Yugoslav political organizations are represented in the new government by their leading men.

#### *Croats Give Best*

If present negotiations succeed, the Croats will have given the very best they have—the men for whom most Croats, in spite of all persecutions and discriminations, have been voting during the last 15 years. No group of men could be more authorized to speak for Croatia than these and what they seem to say is that they stick with the Serbs against the Nazis.

Negotiations are under way to have the Croatian group in the cabinet led by Dr. Vlatko Matchek, the head of the Croat Peasant Party and of the Croat people. He is one of the most uncompromising democrats in Southeast Europe. With him is Dr. Jura Shutej (pronounced Shutay) from the turbulent Bosnian City of Sarajevo. From the Croats also is Dr. Joseph Torbar and Ivan Andres, both men of great influence and high standing.

Bosnian Mohamedans are represented by Djafer Kulenovitch, one of their most authentic spokesmen.

The Rev. Fran Kulovtz is the devoted representative of little Slovenia; his whole career is marked by opposition to Nazi aggression. His little Province, wedged in between Nazi Germany and Fascist Italy, actually went into mourning on March 26 when Yugoslavia joined the Axis.

#### *Real Masters*

Sava Kosanovitch, representing the Serbs outside of Serbia, has distinguished himself by his untiring work during the last 12 years against every kind of dictatorship.

From Serbia proper come the two generals, real masters of the cabinet, along with Bogoljub Yevtitch who may be called an extreme old-line nationalist, Dr. Jovan Jovanovitch, eminent professor in Belgrade University, and Momtchilo Nintitch, former Minister of Foreign Affairs, a leader of the powerful Radical Party and an uncompromising opponent of Nazism. From the same Serbian group comes Mihar Trifunovitch. The Serb Democrats and Agrarians are also well represented.

The army, the intelligensia, the peasants, city and village, Roman Catholics, Orthodox Serbians and the Moslems all have joined to defend Yugoslavian liberty.

The Christian Science Monitor, Friday, March 28, 1941.

#### **CABINET MEMBERS**

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia, March 28 (AP).—Following is the revised list of the new Simovitch cabinet:

Premier—Gen. Dusan Simovitch.

Vice-Premier—Dr. Vlatko Matchek.

Second Vice-Premier—Jovan Jovanovitch.

Foreign Minister—Momtchilo Nintitch.

War and Navy—Bogoljub Ilitch

Interior—Srdjan Budisavjevitch

Transport—Bogoljub Yevtitch.

Finance—Jura Shutej.

Agriculture—Branko Markovitch.

Justice—Lazare Markovitch

Education—Mihar Trifunovitch.

Commerce and Ministry—Ivan Andres.

Mines—Djafer Kulenovitch.

Public Works—The Rev. Fran Kulovetz.

Public Welfare and Hygiene—Milan Grol.

Posts and Telegraph—Joseph Torbar.

Food—Sava Kosanovitch

Ministers Without Portfolio—Marko Dakovitch, Jovan Banjanin, Barisa Smolijan.

The Christian Science Monitor, Friday, March 28, 1941.

#### **NO SOVIET COMMENT ON YUGOSLAV COUP**

By Associated Press

MOSCOW, March 28.—The Soviet Russian press published prominently but without comment today reports on the overthrow of the pro-Axis Yugoslav Government and the accession of Peter II to power.

Newspapers printed five successive Tass, official news agency, dispatches from Belgrade describing the sequence of events.

Pravda, organ of the Communist Party, published two columns of the reports on its foreign news page. The Christian Science Monitor, Friday, March 28, 1941.

#### **UNITED STATES READY TO ACT**

By a Staff Correspondent of The Christian Science Monitor

WASHINGTON, March 28.—The United States Government today put the maximum democratic interpretation on the two-day record of the new Yugoslav regime's opposition to the Axis agreement.

The defense of Yugoslavia is already deemed vital to the defense of America and the anti-Nazi Belgrade Government becomes immediately eligible for aid under the Lend-Lease Act.

Army and Navy experts began today a new check-up of possible transfers of military equipment from existing stores in order to render some assistance with the greatest possible speed, and it is understood that Britain will prove the medium through which this aid can reach the resisting Yugoslavs who are now refusing to go down under the Hitler heel.

In the judgment of American diplomats one clear sign of Yugoslavia's new independence toward the Axis is the expiration without any reply of the deadline Germany set for a declaration of the government's policy toward the Axis pact which its repudiated leaders signed only a few days ago.

#### *Greetings From Envoy*

The Yugoslav Minister, Constantine Fotitch, said after a conference with Acting Secretary of State Sumner Welles that establishment of a new anti-Axis regime in his homeland was symbolic of its national

dignity. He said Yugoslavia must now be regarded as independent, rather than as an Axis dependency.

In a telegram to the Yugoslav communities, including the text of his message to the King, Mr. Fotitch said:

"Our fatherland has proven once again all the high traditions of the Yugoslav people. Those traditions are led by one sacred thought: Honor, dignity and freedom of the country. Today—strongly united—the people of Yugoslavia stand by His Majesty King Peter II, son of the great King Alexander, the unifier. Today I am happy to announce to Yugoslav people residing in the United States the text of a telegram I have communicated to His Majesty the King.

"To His Majesty King Peter II:

"In this fateful moment, in which our people have found in Your Majesty their national leader, I beg Your Majesty kindly to accept in behalf of all the royal representatives and myself, the expressions of deepest devotion, loyalty and wishes for a long and happy reign. At the same time, I am happy to interpret to Your Majesty, the feelings of all Yugoslavs in this country who, in these trying moments, were gathered around the royal representatives and who today greet with joy Your Majesty's ascent to the noble throne of Karageorgevitch'."

"Communicating the text of this telegram to you, I am emotionally thankful to our people in the United States for their feelings and devotion they have expressed so many times during these trying hours."

#### **PRESIDENT WATCHES BELGRADE**

ABOARD U. S. S. BENSON, March 28 (AP).—President Roosevelt, nearing the end of the fishing cruise which has provided only a partial escape from official duties, kept informed today on the Yugoslavian situation.

Aids said the President was receiving State Department reports via the Naval Radio.

In a move to strengthen further the United States defenses, Mr. Roosevelt placed more commodities under export control.

He signed a proclamation effective April 15 subjecting these products to the export licensing system: Animal, fish and marine oils, fats and grease, edible and inedible; vegetable oil seeds and other oil-bearing raw materials; fatty acids; cork and certain explosives, including detonators and blasting caps.

The President addressed a letter to President Vincent of Haiti accepting an invitation for United States participation in the third meeting of the Inter-American Union of the Caribbean in Port-au-Prince, April 22-24.

The Christian Science Monitor, Friday, March 28, 1941.

#### **PETER AND PAUL**

Whether the young Peter of Yugoslavia would have been better prepared for his throne by a policy of resistance instead of surrender is a moot point. What he now risks is the prospect of a country divided against itself on an issue that might have united it. However that may be, we cannot dispute the ministers' courage in signing on Hitler's dotted line.

They were courageous in that they have risked their heads, for thousands of Serbs must have sworn revenge upon them for their signatures. Yet the ministers are being called pusillanimous, because they seem to have affixed their names to the agreement out of fear of seeing their country overrun by Hitler's legions. But was this, in fact, pusillanimous? May it not be that the ministers were merely expressing their loyalty to the throne? For the man who was responsible for the Yugoslav signature is the regent, Prince Paul.

What inspired the unflagging determination of Prince Paul to see his country come to terms with Hitler will be a speculation for a long time to come. It is known that his overriding thought is merely to hand on the throne intact to the young King Peter when the King attains the legal age of 18 for taking his father's place; the place, that is, of the murdered Alexander. This will be on September 6. Prince Paul, unlike his brother Alexander, is a retiring person, a lover of books rather than of state documents, and only a sense of duty, it is said, keeps him at the helm at Belgrade. Possibly the determination to "buy time" till September 6 was the prevailing thought in his head as he was wrestling with his ministers. If this was his motivation, then the ministers' courage admits of no stain, though the honoring of a prince in such a way is perhaps difficult for Americans to comprehend, as is the legacy that Paul has made to Peter.

(Editorial)

Washington Post, March 28, 1941.

#### **A GREAT DAY**

Yesterday's brief and fragmentary emanations from the Axis capitals convey the impression of nothing so much as of men, staggering from a shock, who have not yet fully realized what has hit them. It is nothing; everything will be all right in a minute; the events in Yugoslavia are purely "internal"; they don't really matter very much. But they matter so much that yesterday may well stand as the greatest single day for free men and women everywhere since the first crash of Nazi bombs on the Polish villages in September, 1939.

Because another of the smaller peoples has had the aggressive courage to stand up and fight rather than accept betrayal, because they have found the tough leaders to face both blood and sweat rather than surrender, the whole Balkan position has been transformed in an hour, the whole face of the war has assumed a new aspect and not only the strategy but, what is more important, the psychology and the morale of the great struggle have taken on a dazzlingly new light. With a courage and conviction equal to that of their Greek neighbors, the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes have exploded the last Nazi triumph of infiltration, bluff and betrayal in Hitler's face with a terrific effect, an effect far greater from the very fact that the triumph was so nearly achieved. With the famous panzer divisions immediately on their borders, they have dared to kick the "new order" into the ash heap where it belongs; and with Mr. Mat-suoka in Berlin to be impressed by their humiliation and to share in the "redistribution of the world," they

have risen to shake the whole facade of Nazi omnipotence to its flimsy foundations.

The possibilities which may flow from this one act of clear-cut bravery and decision are so vast that one hesitates to contemplate them; the hopes which it fully justifies, on the most coldly unemotional appraisal, are so breath-taking that one dares not even express them. But the immediate facts, at any rate, speak for themselves. For the first time on the Continent of Europe the colossal Nazi bluff has been called (the Greeks, who have shown the heart to do it, have not had the opportunity) and Hitler's hand has been forced with a directness which he cannot possibly evade. He has the choice now between doing nothing, which is to accept a shattering blow to his prestige besides leaving his whole military effort in the Balkans under constant and perilous threat, or attempting to crush the Serb defiance, which means launching the Balkan war which he has always sought to avoid, in a form for which he is not well prepared and from positions in which he is under tremendous strategic disadvantages.

So much seems indisputable; and the events of those few swift hours in Belgrade yesterday morning are already reverberating through every capital and foreign office in the world. What their ultimate effects will be—in Turkey, all through the Middle East, even in Bulgaria or Hungary, one can only imagine. What is Tokio's reaction? What is Vichy thinking? What is the mood in Rome, with the Albanian position suddenly under new and imminent peril? And can one guess that behind all this Moscow is moving back again to exploit a situation in which her massed divisions could, without firing a shot, exert a crushing pressure on the overexpanded Nazi empire? All that is in the realm of speculation. But, almost certainly, a test is coming, and it is likely to show how thin-stretched that empire really is. The world is launched again upon the tide of great events.

The Yugoslav Army leaders have dared to make the test. In so doing they have exposed their country to war, very probably to being overrun and ravaged. But theirs is a country which has been overrun before and has lived because its people have dared to fight.

(Editorial)

New York Herald-Tribune, March 28, 1941.

### YUGOSLAVIA

That which the Nazis do not put much store in, that for which they have repeatedly shown their contempt, that which they therefore have not tried to understand has just cost them a diplomatic setback which may be followed by more material losses.

The love of freedom has compelled a nation of 16,000,000 to defy a nation of 90,000,000. The determination to be free has caused a people—or rather three peoples—to overthrow their own Government because it did not match that determination. A passion for independence which the Nazis thought to exploit to keep the Yugoslavs divided into Serb, Croat and Slovene, has welded in Yugoslavia a kind of unity not before in evidence since the early days of Yugoslav statehood.

Berlin's demand for a "clarification" of the new Yugoslav Government's attitude toward the Nazi pact shows the momentary bewilderment of the Axis. That Yugoslavia has a new government should be sufficient clarification of the position of that State.

It is only natural that Berlin does not want to believe it. For if that is so, an ultimatum from Berlin to Belgrade is now in order. An ultimatum to Belgrade started the World War. The shouts that rang through Yugoslavia's cities at the overturn of the Regency and the implicit repudiation of the Nazi-Yugoslav agreement awake echoes of 1914 which, added to those coming from across the Atlantic, cannot sound pleasant in German ears. Once again the Reich is threatened with a war on two fronts, and with subterranean warfare throughout the occupied regions whose people must thrill with new hope because of the inspiring example of the Yugoslavs.

The Nazis have the physical power to cope with the problem presented to them by Belgrade, unless to the diplomatic victory that Britain and its Allies have now gained in Yugoslavia can be added other resounding triumphs. Greek sources are jubilantly pointing out that with Yugoslav aid they might drive the Italians out of Albania in a couple of weeks and that then, with British assistance, a Balkan front manned by some 2,200,000 soldiers could be raised against Germany.

No one will deny the Greeks the right to their optimism. They have been pioneering for months in that valley of decision which the Yugoslavs have now chosen to enter. But the very courage of these smaller nations merits unusual efforts on the part of larger ones which, as Prime Minister Churchill has just said, share the common cause.

It is clear that Britain and the United States, no less than the Nazis, are faced with a challenge to act boldly in the situation created by Greek and Yugoslav bravery. It is not enough that small nations shall sacrifice themselves merely as an example. Behind the Yugoslav uprising there has been much deliberate encouragement from London. And the United States attitude toward the war is credited by a Yugoslav spokesman in Washington with having helped to stiffen the Yugoslav stand.

This is the small nations' big day, but it is the big nations' opportunity. It would be risky to expect that Hitler will do nothing, or that he "can wait" now, as he has so often boasted of being able to wait in the past.

(Editorial)

The Christian Science Monitor, March 28, 1941.

### UPSET AT BELGRADE

The revolutionary overturn at Belgrade is an event of great importance with literally tremendous possibilities. The whole setting was one of flaming melodrama worthy of a "Prisoner of Zenda" novel. Crowds picturesquely clad in semi-Oriental costumes, harangued by bearded Orthodox priests and monks, started the uprising, but it was the army that carried it to a sensational climax in the early morning hours of yesterday.

The new government is dominated by the army and the Serb elements of the population. The logical

inference is that its policy will be one of national independence at all costs. Presumably that will mean defiance of axis demands and reliance upon British aid. It is indicated that the axis pact may not immediately be repudiated but may be "interpreted" so strictly that it will be of no assistance to the axis powers. This may be a mere effort to gain time for better resistance to an expected German invasion.

Certainly, Berlin has nothing to hope from so bitterly hostile a regime as that which has now seized power in Belgrade. The news must have broken like a bombshell amid the staged pageantry of the Matsuoka reception. Prestige alone would seem to dictate the necessity of a swift German counterstroke. The Serbs, a people small but indomitable, have flung a moral challenge straight into Hitler's teeth. The news must stir every oppressed element in Nazi-dominated Europe. Berlin is bound to take quick and effective action, even if it entails grave military risks.

For Britain, the overturn at Belgrade is a triumph of the first magnitude. Probably the revolt had assurance of British backing. Indeed, the open incitement to revolt broadcast that very evening by a British cabinet minister indicates the British government knew what was afoot. In any event, British prestige is as deeply committed to supporting the new government as German prestige is toward effecting its overthrow. News dispatches describe the presence of considerable British forces in Northern Greece near the Yugoslav border.

Thus everything portends a decisive struggle, with Yugoslavia as the main battleground. The broad corridor of the Vardar and Morava valleys forms the historic setting where the fate of the Balkans has often been decided. If the war machines of Britain and Germany are soon to meet there in head-on collision, the result will go far to determine not merely the local mastery of the Balkans but the outcome of the entire war as well. One of the decisive battles of all history may be at hand.

(Editorial)

Washington Evening Star, March 28, 1941.

## HITLER LOSES "FACE," FOR JAPS, AS SLAVS UPSET HIS PLOT; NIPPON SEES PERILS AHEAD

BY CARROLL BINDER

[Foreign Editor of The Chicago Daily News]

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The Berlin-Rome-Tokyo Axis, which is conditioned only to diplomatic and military successes, is reeling badly as the result of several severe blows and disappointments during the last week.

Chief of these blows is the collapse of Germany's carefully nurtured plan to peacefully absorb Yugoslavia and thus to open the way for a lightning campaign to smash Greek and British resistance in Greece and Albania. The rapid collapse of the remnants of Italy's hard-won African empire in Ethiopia and Eritrea constituted another severe blow to Axis prestige, and possibly paved the way for more effective British resistance to the Axis in other spheres through the release of manpower and equipment.

A third setback suffered by the Axis this week was the publication of a treaty between Russia and Tur-

key which indicated that Turkey would have Russia's friendship, and presumably support, if it goes to war in defense of its independence and territory.

Since the only threat to Turkish independence and territory at present conceivable must come from either Germany or Russia, and since Germany had sought Russian aid to pry Turkey loose from its British alliance, the Russian-Turkish pact obviously is a severe blow to German aspirations.

### *Japanese Minister Sees Loss*

Such setbacks as those in Yugoslavia and Turkey would be acutely aggravating to the superconfident Nazi hierarchs at any time, but they are particularly exasperating this week because they have made the Axis lose face at a moment when face is of supreme importance.

Hitler had induced the foreign minister of his Japanese ally to make the long journey from Tokyo to Berlin in order to compel Japan to fish or cut bait. Japan has been a full-fledged member of the Axis for many months, but to date it has contributed absolutely nothing to the Axis cause. Instead of harassing and preying on the foes of aggression in the Pacific while Hitler and Mussolini have been doing their utmost to harass and conquer the foes of aggression in the European and African spheres, the Japanese have remained sitting on the fence. True, they have taken some loot from the vanquished and helpless French and have tightened their clutches on the throat of helpless Thai. But the Japanese have not lifted a finger against the treasure boxes of British Malaya and the Dutch East Indies which Hitler wanted them to seize in order to weaken and humiliate the British and throw a panic into the United States.

Hitler brought Matsuoka, the Japanese foreign minister, to Berlin to show him a vision of the totalitarian world which, in his judgment, is on the verge of coming into being and to intimidate Japan into action that would cause the United States to stop helping Britain defend itself because of anxiety about American national security.

### *Japanese Skeptical*

The collapse of Italy in East Africa and Albania and Germany's failure to crush Great Britain with the speed it had promised have influenced the Japanese militarists to restrain their natural inclination to try to seize something while the guardians are busy elsewhere. The Japanese would like to see the British nearer to the count of 10 than they as yet appear to be before Japanese vessels set out to take Singapore, which is one of the strongest bases in the world.

In order to convince the skeptical Oriental ally that an Axis victory is foreordained Hitler staged one of his characteristic "coups de theatre." After months of careful preparation for the acquisition of Yugoslavia Hitler summoned the preconditioned Yugoslav statesmen to Vienna. Acting under the orders of the regent, Prince Paul, Premier Cvetkovic and Foreign Minister Cincar-Markovic journeyed to Vienna—as the premiers of Bulgaria, Rumania, Hungary, Slovakia and other conquered nations had journeyed to an Axis capital to sign away the liberties of their people.

The Nazi propaganda machine unleashed tremendous blasts of exultation at this latest evidence of Axis power and British impotence.

Matsuoka was emphatically reminded that this was but one of many triumphs for "the new order," and that if he wished his country to share in the spoils Japan had better get busy.

#### *Ready to Grab Country*

The German Gestapo, which had been operating with customary thoroughness in Yugoslavia for many weeks, turned over to the Yugoslav police lists of the Yugoslavs who had refused to bow to Nazi dictation and ordered the arrests of many hundreds and the removal from government positions of other patriots. German technicians who had been waiting to take over the management of Yugoslav mines, factories and banks in order to make Yugoslavia produce the maximum for the German military machine, prepared to assume their posts as their prototypes had successfully done in the other conquered countries.

American newspaper correspondents were told that fact-giving dispatches such as they had been sending no longer would be tolerated. British correspondents were threatened with arrest or expulsion. The American minister was assailed in the Nazi-controlled press for having attempted to dissuade Yugoslavia from surrendering its independence.

And then, to the consternation of Hitler and his collaborators, the whole Yugoslav stage setting went up in the flames of popular revolt. The patriotic Yugoslavs, who had been kept in ignorance of all that was being done by Prince Paul and his appeasement-minded collaborators in the government, revolted as soon as they learned of the surrender to Germany, which, they perceived, meant the end of Yugoslav political, economic and military independence.

The Germans had spent a great deal of money corrupting key people in Yugoslavia, but there were many they could not buy, and probably some of those who took German money refused to carry out German plans. The army, under the militant leadership of Gen. Dusan Simovic, who is a close personal friend of the chiefs of the Greek and Turkish armies and is pro-Allied, drove Prince Paul out of power and assumed authority in the name of the young King Peter, who is soon to attain the statutory age of 18.

The Serbian Orthodox church, enjoys immense prestige in the Serbian parts of the triune kingdom, enthusiastically supported the revolt for it is intensely patriotic and militant. The Serbian political parties also rallied to the new government, thus giving it strong popular roots in at least the southern part of the nation.

#### *Germans Try for Split*

Croatian and Slovene parties are represented in the newly constituted government but it is too early to tell whether the Germans will fail to drive a wedge between Croat and Slovenes on the one hand and Serb on the other. The Croats are democratic rather than totalitarian by temperament, but they are more prosperous and pacifistic than the hardy Serbs, to whom fighting is a virtue. The Nazis are telling the Croats that if the present move leads to war the Croat territory will bear the worst brunt of the fighting.

Whatever the course taken by the Croats, it seems unlikely that Germany can succeed in inducing the patriotic Serbs to surrender their freedom on the

terms agreed to by Prince Paul and his subservient ministers. If Germany makes up its mind to try to subjugate Yugoslavia it is likely to have to fight the Serbs. The terrain, the present disposition of Germany's troops, the direction of the railroads and other factors make such a campaign an exceedingly unattractive one from a German standpoint.

#### *British Gain Valuable Time*

If Germany decides to continue with its program for driving the Greeks and British out of Greece it must move through the less favorable Bulgar route unless it first fights the Serbs to get access to the more practicable Vardar Valley route of Yugoslavia. In either case, the British are given more time to strengthen their position in Greece, the Greeks are given a respite and the Turks are encouraged to cooperate more closely with their Greek allies, the Yugoslavs and the British.

Prince Paul's friends in high places in Britain are still attempting to whitewash his reputation, but the dispatches from Berlin as well as from Belgrade reveal the ousted regent as an effective collaborator of the Nazis. Paul resisted the development of ties between Yugoslavia and Russia—a relationship which had been strong and beneficial to Serbia in the days of prewar Serbia and Czarist Russia, and he did his best to repress the Serbian patriots who clamored for resistance to Germany. Now that his influence has been removed, Yugoslav ties with Russia as well as Turkey may grow stronger. Neither will be pleasing to Germany.

The Balkan situation is full of potentialities as a result of this week's developments. Until we know what Hitler means to do to avenge himself and salvage what he can of his badly shattered plans, speculation is not very profitable. But it is safe to say that Yugoslavia's action will make it harder for the Germans to hold down the conquered peoples in other parts of their war-swollen empire.

#### *Japanese Now See Perils*

It is equally safe to assume that Hitler's pep talk to the Japanese carries less weight than had been expected.

Much as he dislikes the United States and would like to lay his hands on the oil, rubber, tin and other resources of the Dutch Indies and Malaya, Matsuoka will be less likely to tell his fellow Japanese that there is a green light ahead because Hitler showed it to him.

Embittered because his dream of empire has gone blooey, Mussolini this week fired yet another high general. The latest victim of Mussolini's miscalculations is Marshal Graziani, generally recognized to be one of the ablest colonial soldiers of the postwar period and the principal architect of Italian success in pre-1939 Libya and Ethiopia. Graziani told Mussolini that he could not win in Africa with the limited supplies put at his disposition, and Il Duce has never forgiven the soldier whom he once honored with the title of marquis as well as the marshal's baton. Graziani's successor is Gen. Mario Roatta, who is more accustomed to taking orders from the German military masters of Italy than was Graziani.

Chicago Daily News, March 29, 1941

## THIS CHANGING WORLD

### Yugoslav Military Leaders Confident As They Await Long-Expected Attack.

BY CONSTANTINE BROWN

The Yugoslavs are reported to be awaiting calmly the German onslaught and hurriedly are completing their preparations to resist the attack, which undoubtedly will be violent.

While the politicians have been dilly-dallying with the Axis since the outbreak of the war, the army has been steadily preparing for the present emergency. The military leaders never shared the government's opinion that Yugoslavia could stay out of the war. They were astonished that they had been spared for so long.

The mobilization of the Yugoslav forces began a few weeks after the Italians started their attack on Greece. The general staff had no means to purchase new war material abroad but did the best it could with what was on hand. The latest type available today is the kind manufactured by the Skoda works before the Munich treaty. Small quantities of mountain artillery were obtained from the Reich since that time in exchange for foodstuffs. Generally the barter between Yugoslavia and Germany were confined to non-military articles but once in a while the government managed to obtain types of arms which the Germans did not think would be particularly damaging to the German forces in a war in the Balkans.

The work done by the Yugoslav Army at preparing positions for "any eventuality" is reported to be remarkable. It seems that the army leaders had made up their minds for almost a year that the country would have to meet the Germans. Defensive plans provide for the evacuation and abandonment to the enemy of the whole region north of Nish to the borders of what used to be Bosnia and Hercegovina. Even Belgrade, the capital of the country, cannot be held. The chief resistance will be far south in Macedonia, although heavy fighting is expected north of Scopje.

#### *Counteroffensive in Albania*

According to some military observers it is believed that as soon as the Germans start to blitz Yugoslavia, the Yugoslav Army will take the counteroffensive in Albania and throw the remainder of the Italian Army into the sea. This the Yugoslav general staff considers a simple operation entailing few losses. It is looked on as a military maneuver to harden young soldiers who have not had war experience.

Of course, the army high command and the rest of the people in the country realize that the German attack will be no joke. There is more bitterness in Hitler's heart against the Yugoslavs than against any other of his foes. It is reported from Berlin that while the Fuehrer has indicated his willingness to raise the Japanese to the rank of Aryans, he intends to lower the Serbians to the level of the Jews. Hence no expense will be spared by the Fuehrer to punish drastically the nation which has dared throw sand in the German military machine at the most critical period of the war.

Although it is expected that the Germans will have to bring important reinforcements to the Balkans to deal drastically with the situation, and thus waste some time, there are indications that in order to ex-

pedite things Hungarian and possibly Bulgarian units might be used for the time being—until further German divisions are rushed from Germany to the Balkans. The usual terrifying air bombardments are unlikely to affect the Yugoslavs much, but in certain quarters it is expected that some sort of demonstration will be staged in the next 48 hours. Should this not happen, the units are believed likely to remain as they are at present until the middle of next month, when the Germans would have brought sufficient reinforcements.

The explanations demanded by Hitler from the Belgrade government are believed to be intended merely to mark time and permit the quick reshifting of certain advanced German units from the Bulgarian and Rumanian bases to the Yugoslav border.

#### *Full U S Aid Expected*

Naturally the Yugoslavs expect full aid not only from Britain but from the United States.

The British don't expect to be caught napping. Reports from England indicate that every available form of help is being rushed to the Greek ports to be immediately dispatched to Yugoslavia. More troops are being rushed from Egypt together with modern equipment. The new Belgrade government, which for the time being keeps strictly to a policy of neutrality, has told the British while exploring the possibility of a German attack that Yugoslavia does not need men. Airplane and anti-tank guns are the most important items on the Yugoslav list. The British troops, together with the Greeks, could now be rushed to the Greek-Bulgarian border, where they might even have an opportunity to start offensive operations while the Germans are busy with the Yugoslavs.

As far as this country is concerned, it is now an open secret that as soon as Yugoslavia becomes the object of German aggression everything the Yugoslavs may want from us will be rushed over as quickly as possible. The period of "moral backing," it was stated authoritatively today, is over. The Yugoslav people have decided on their own volition to defend their territorial integrity and their nationality, it was stated in those quarters. They did not threaten anybody and were keenly desirous to stay out of the war. But now, if they are attacked, there is no question that the United States will do its utmost to help them fight for their independence.

Washington Evening Star, March 29, 1941

### BIG PART PLAYED BY U. S. ENVOY IN STIFFENING SERB RESISTANCE

#### *Lane's Promise Of Aid Important In Foiling of Nazis.*

Arthur Bliss Lane, America's Minister to Yugoslavia, played "an important part" in the dramatic governmental upheaval that blew the Balkan kingdom out of the grip of the Axis, State Department officials said yesterday.

The 46-year-old career diplomat's forceful presentation of Washington's attitude encouraged the anti-Nazi leaders of the South Slavs to seize power, knowing they would receive American aid equal at least to that going to Greece under the Lease-Lend Act, it was said here.



Officials recalled that Lane last week conferred with most of Yugoslavia's leaders, including those who resigned from the cabinet and later led the revolt against Axis pact.

The State Department refused to reveal the extent to which Lane had gone in promising American assistance to an anti-Nazi Yugoslavian government. But they emphasized that at the very least he had guaranteed that such a government would receive planes, guns, shells and other material from the United States if it should request aid.

The "American attitude" which the envoy presented so successfully to the Serb and Croat leaders before the revolt was defined most clearly by Acting Secretary of State Sumner Welles Thursday, after the revolt, one high official declared.

Welles, in diplomatic terminology, said he had instructed Lane to promise the new Yugoslav government moral support and material aid under the Lend-Lease Act in the event of Axis aggression. He added that news of the coup d'etat was received with deep satisfaction by the United States.

#### *All Calm, He Phones*

Everything was reported calm in Belgrade, with order being maintained perfectly, by Lane in a telephone conversation late yesterday with Ray Atherton, chief of the European division of the State Department. It was the first opportunity afforded for free communication since the revolt.

Lane was reached by telephone after a brief telegraphic report, which was delayed in transmission and was dated Thursday, had been received from him by the department. This said that he had seen the new foreign minister very briefly and planned to confer with the prime minister and foreign minister yesterday.

In his telephone conversation yesterday he said that no American interests had been interfered with or adversely affected and that enthusiasm continued at high pitch. He added that he had called on members of the new government.

Lane, who has been Minister to Yugoslavia since August, 1937, fought Nazi economic pressure on Belgrade before the outset of the European war. State Department officials said he negotiated "brilliantly" for a reciprocal trade agreement with Yugoslavia, although it was never consummated.

The stocky, curly-haired envoy went to the Balkans after a year as Minister to Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. From 1933 to 1936 he was American minister to Nicaragua, one of the youngest men in the career service with the rank of minister. Earlier, he was counselor of the American Embassy in Mexico City.

A native of Brooklyn, N. Y., Lane received part of his education in France and later was graduated from Yale University. After a year in the Connecticut National Guard, he became secretary to American Ambassador Thomas Nelson Page in Rome in 1916. He was appointed to the foreign service the following year.

After two years in Rome, Lane served in Warsaw, at the Paris Peace Conference, in Switzerland and Washington before his assignment to Mexico City as first secretary in 1925. From 1927 to 1930 he was chief of the division of Mexican affairs.

The Washington Post, Saturday, March 29, 1941

## SERBS SPOIL NAZIS' PARTY FOR MATSUOKA

BY KIRKE L. SIMPSON

*Associated Press Staff Writer*

A sour flavor apparently got into the menu of the Axis love feast in Berlin, wholly aside from Yugoslavia's refusal to come to the party. Japanese Foreign Minister Matsuoka, the guest of honor, did not have a very happy time of it apparently, nor could Italy's representatives at the festal board have been quite at ease.

If the Nazi high command was caught as much by surprise by the Belgrade coup as is indicated, it is a fact worth noting Berlin's boasted intelligence system, the advance guard of the Fifth Column, failed it for the first time.

Nobody else was in the dark, even before the new Belgrade regime made its defiant answer to a Berlin demand for an explanation. Yugoslavian "neutrality" in the circumstances amounts to a formal challenge to Hitler, and the next move in the deadly game is up to him.

Hitler's lexicon does not include either the word neutrality in its accepted sense or the word fail. Nations not actively with him are rated against him. It is now clear that Matsuoka must have learned a lot about that during his Berlin stay.

Nazi censors have passed press reports from Berlin saying virtually that the Japanese visitor was confronted with some sort of demand that Tokyo make good on the nebulous terms of her alignment with the Rome-Berlin Axis. He has been told, it is indicated, that if Japan hopes for Axis favor for her dreams of expansion she must do something now to earn it.

Something "specific" was suggested, the Berlin reports add, very specific. An attack on Singapore, Britain's powerful Far Eastern naval base, already swarming with hardfighting Australian defenders, was urged.

Failing such action by Japan to divert American attention to the Pacific and perhaps limit the scope of American help for Britain, it was pointedly suggested to the Japanese visitor that a victorious Axis might have small interest in handing over British Far Eastern war spoils to an inactive partner.

The Washington Post, Saturday, March 29, 1941

## SLAV DEFIANCE OF NAZIS STIRS DEMAND FOR SPEEDIER U. S. AID

BY EDGAR ANSEL MOWRER

*Special Dispatch Correspondent*

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Washington, March 29.—President Roosevelt has informed Gen. Richard Dusan Simovic, the new Premier of Yugoslavia, that the United States will supply his country's war needs. So soon as the Yugoslavs indicate exactly what they need, this country is expected to go about getting and sending it to the men whose refusal to join the Axis has put heart into free men everywhere.

Usually extremely matter of fact Washington officials were saying last night that it was inconceivable that after his open defiance of the German Goliath,



the Yugoslav David should not receive the sling he declares he needs. War material is scarcer than gold nuggets in Washington, but it is the universal belief that the requisite amount can and will be found.

Credit is being given to Under-secretary of State Sumner Welles for his foresight in having insisted that a certain number of training planes be dispatched to the Yugoslavs several weeks ago. At that time Army and Navy Men who could have used those planes themselves were grumbling that they would be "thrown away." It looked, until Wednesday, as though the grumblers were right. But now Mr Welles is being triumphantly vindicated and is receiving due praise.

Some Washington officials even express the hope that the flareup in the hearts of a little people will be the signal for the Americans to begin to put, not only their hands and their backs and their brains into seeing that their friends win this war, but their hearts as well.

Yugoslavs in the capital, though their hearts are bursting with happiness, are nonetheless raising a warning voice. President Roosevelt, through the American minister, Arthur Bliss Lane, in Belgrade, has, they pointed out, promised aid in case of war. With many normal sea lanes blocked, it takes some time for war material to reach Belgrade. If the American stuff is to help, they insist, it must be sent at once. About 25 Yugoslav ships, in American waters are immediately available for transporting it.

Slivovitza, national brandy of Serbia, was much sought in Washington last night though little was found. People looking for a chance to toast each other in the appropriate juice had to fall back upon Dalmation maraschino and red cherry brandy, or a little of the fiery white rakı common to all the Balkans.

#### *Turning Point in War*

Though unwilling to be too sanguine, many people in Washington feel that somehow the war turned a corner when the British crippled the Italian fleet at Taranto. The revelation that Greeks and Yugoslavs will fight for their national honor and existence and that the Italians will not has started a sort of notion that the tide is running strongly against Hitler and his "new order." Somehow the "new order" just isn't popular.

Washington believes it is still too early to evaluate the consequences of the Yugoslav revolution, for it was nothing else. But certain facts are considered sure. Rather than surrender, the Yugoslavs overthrew not merely a cabinet but an entire regime and put in a new chief of state. This new regime is supported by the Army and by the representatives of all the political parties. It is, therefore, inconceivable that the new regime should ever submit to the arrangement for surrender made by its predecessor and embodied in Prince Paul's only slightly conditioned adherence to the Axis.

This being the case, German Minister Viktor von Heeren, in Belgrade, will, it was believed here last night, ask in vain about his pact, and German troops will threaten, with no result whatever. The Yugoslav leaders, it is believed, will stick to the line that they know nothing of any pact signed by their pre-

decessors. Yugoslavia, the Germans will be told, wants nothing but peace with honor and independence.

#### *Rushing Army Into Shape*

If Hitler wishes to negotiate any arrangement that safeguards both, the Yugoslav leaders will be pleased to begin discussing it with him. Meanwhile, these same leaders will be moving heaven and earth to get their army in shape for the supreme test in the shortest possible time.

None here believes that Hitler—under the necessity of impressing the Japanese foreign minister, Yosuke Matsuoka—can accept to reopen a negotiation with people he already thought he had in his pocket. Therefore, logically, he ought to order the Panzer divisions to advance and start a new war.

But people here think that the Fuehrer does not want a new war and is not immediately prepared to fight Yugoslavia anyway. If so, he is in a fix—he will have to devise something else. This, it is hoped, will take some time. Much as the Germans may believe in their capacity for "boring from within" and preparing a new sellout, the Yugoslavs today are in no frame of mind to tolerate German worms or termites. Therefore—what?

The next few weeks should show. Meanwhile, Yugoslavia's historic act has unquestionably heartened the Turks, fired the Greeks, depressed the Italians and impressed the Russians. For the Turks now seem bound to fight if attacked; the Greeks will throw even greater enthusiasm into their magnificent effort; the Italians risk being kicked into the Adriatic by a Yugoslav foot, and the Russians—who thought Hitler would score a clean sweep in the Balkans short of Turkey—proved once more to have miscalculated.

March 29, 1941.

#### **THE SPIRIT OF OLD SERBIA**

By Sonia Tomara

Last year, in April, I drove with a friend through old Serbia. A belated spring had come to the Balkans. Cherry trees were in bloom and the air was mild at last. We had intended to go to Nish, but we never arrived there because on our way we met old Sava Peshich, the "chetnik," or guerrilla warrior. Nish was not worth seeing, anyway. It is an ugly town, and its only claim to glory is to have been the birthplace of Dragisha Tsvetkovich, the shrewd Premier ousted for having yielded to the Axis.

We stopped for lunch at Peshich's roadside inn. He was a heavy-set man, with a white mustache, and he himself served us the glasses of slivovitz, a prune brandy which one swallows in a gulp, and the creamed cheese with chopped onions spread on bread. Peshich's wife was dead, but he had two sons and a daughter-in-law. They raised hogs and kept the inn. After the slivovitz we ate the traditional "prasia," or roast suckling pig, and drank red local wine. By the end of the meal Sava Peshich was drinking with us and talking, and the conversation carried us into the evening, when it was too late to go on to Nish.

My companion was a Frenchman who could speak some Serbian. When Sava discovered that I was Russian he served me a special glass of slivovitz and said: "All the Russians are our brothers and sisters.

A big Slav family When we are in danger the Russians will come to save us." We spoke a mixture of Serbian, Russian and French because Peshich knew a little French. He had learned it in the other war, when he fought in the Vardar Valley with the French and British.

He had begun fighting in 1912, against the Bulgars, then had warred against the Austrians. His father and his brother had gone with Prince Alexander's army into Albania, but he had been cut off from them and had remained in the old Serbian mountains. "I became a chetnik then," he said, "and I lived like a wolf. We came out at night and killed Germans, cut their wires and their railway that carried troops to the front. I killed many of them with my own hands, and the Germans chased me. But we were all blood brothers in the cheta, and nobody could get us. Once a chetnik always a chetnik."

For many centuries, ever since the Serbs were defeated by the Turks at the Kossova battle, Serbian chetniks had battled the Turks. They formed groups of blood brothers who swore to fight or to die. Sava told us, as the day wore on, that the country was in danger again and that their war-time cheta had been re-formed and they had renewed their oath, an oath to fight and to die. I wondered then what these guerrillas could do against German guns and panzer divisions. But my French companion and I admired Peshich's quiet dignity.

"He is a peasant prince," the Frenchman said; "the son of free men, staunch individualists, who never surrendered their souls."

The image of Sava Peshich the chetnik has often guided me in my effort to understand the maze of Yugoslav politics. I can well imagine him today, swearing against "the foxes, the dogs" who betrayed Serbia and tried to "sell it down the river." And there are doubtless many Peshiches in old Serbia.

Prince Paul, who has ruled Yugoslavia for more than six years, ever since King Alexander's assassination, and who has now been forced to flee the country, has never been faced with an easy task. As a Serbian statesman put it to me once, "It is difficult to build a house on unequal pillars." The southern Slavs who compose Yugoslavia are unequal in growth, indeed. The Serbs have lived under Turkish rules and have fought it. They are uncouth, warlike and individualistic. The Croats were peasants under the Hungarians, and they prefer to plot rather than to fight.

The Slovenes have been thoroughly Germanized by the Austrians. They are orderly and clean. And there are also the Moslems of Bosnia, who don't like the Christians; the Montenegro mountaineers, who had always been free and who are now under the Serbs, and half a million Germans thoroughly imbued with the sense of their superiority over the Slavs.

Prince Paul, "the foreigner," as the Serbs called him, had never been popular in the realm. He was cultivated, well mannered, shrewd. He knew how to talk to diplomats but he never mixed with the people. He was too subtle and humane for the Serbs, who had preferred King Alexander's ruthless régime to Paul's mild government. The Serbs have never forgiven Paul his compromise with the Croats, to whom he gave in 1939 the right to home rule. And the army, which is old Serbian in its make-up, has never trusted Prince Paul. He lived rather a recluse in his white palace at Dedinie, on a hill overlooking Belgrade,

happy with his wife and his children. He often said that he disliked power, and exercised it only because Peter was too young.

Yet it was wondered in Belgrade last year whether Prince Paul would efface himself when Peter came of age Sept. 6, 1941. It was no secret that Princess Olga and Queen Dowager Marie, Peter's mother, were no friends. The Serbs wanted Peter fully established on the throne, and they wanted to regain the privileged position they had enjoyed under King Alexander.

Events have played into their hand. Prince Paul has given up the fight for power, and King Peter, shy, little known to his people, automobile crazy, is the ruler of the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes. He has not yet shown his mettle. His only asset is to be Alexander's son at a time when war is at Serbia's door again. It is obvious that the real rulers of Serbia will be her generals, and if they dare Hitler their job will be tough.

The plan of the Serbian general staff has always been not to defend the Slovenian mountains or the Croatian plains. They are considered indefensible. The army would intrench itself south of the Danube and east of the Drina and fight the Germans in the mountains of old Serbia. A part of it would probably fall on the Italians in Albania.

In case of war Yugoslavia would thus cease to exist, at least for a time. There would be Serbia once more, with its wild passes, its difficult roads, its chetniks and its fierce spirit. In the last war it won much fame. No predictions could be made today, but the spirit of old Serbia still lives.

New York Herald-Tribune, March 29, 1941.

## TODAY AND TOMORROW

### The Yugoslavs and American Policy.

BY WALTER LIPPMANN

THE UPRISING of the Yugoslavs is the first great European event since the United States formally abandoned its isolation and adopted the lend-lease policy. We may consider it under this aspect not in order to glorify ourselves—for the glory and the dangers are for King Peter and his people—but in order to study for our own guidance the practical wisdom of our policy.

We have had a part in this great event. Had we failed to dedicate this country to the task of providing arms to the Allies, it is unlikely that Britain could have afforded or would have dared to land in Greece and with the Greeks to establish a line from which the Yugoslav can, if they are attacked, be supported. Without the reserves of weapons that we alone can provide, the British would almost certainly have had to husband their resources for their own ultimate defense. Had the British been unable to land in Greece, and to make available to the Greeks and the Yugoslavs the supplies they must have in order to resist, the prospect would have been too hopeless for any organized national resistance.

We do not need to make any predictions about the military developments in the Balkans in order to see that the uprising in Yugoslavia is strong evidence in favor of the underlying conception of the lend-lease policy. The opponents of the policy have not often

understood it. Thus they have argued that Hitler is master of the European continent, that he cannot be defeated except after an "invasion" of the continent by an expeditionary force of several million American soldiers. So they have contended that there is no way to defeat Hitler or that he can be defeated only by a staggering sacrifice of American lives.

The supporters of the lend-lease interventionist policy have replied that this whole contention is based on a false conception of the state of Europe and of the grand strategy of the struggle. They have maintained that throughout Europe, in all the occupied territory, in all the threatened countries, and to a very considerable extent within the Axis itself, there were millions of men, often whole nations of men and women, praying, plotting, organizing, working for the day when they can rise up and throw off an ever more intolerable tyranny. Behind the facade of Hitler's empire there is forming, they said, a European coalition of free men. Those who talk about an "invasion" of Europe are imagining an absurdity, they are imagining Great Britain's and America's armies trying to fight their way across Europe while the French, the Belgians, Dutch, the Norwegians, the Danes, the Poles, the Czechs, the Austrians, and Hungarians, the Yugoslavs, the Bulgars sat quietly in their homes as their "liberators" marched past. The truth is that the problem is not how to invade Europe but how to provide Europeans with the means and the opportunity to liberate themselves.

The stand of the Greek people and the uprising of the Yugoslavs goes far to prove that this conception of the war in Europe is correct. Beyond the possibility of dispute we know now that the peoples of Europe do not regard totalitarianism as the wave of the future, that given even half a chance they will fight it to the death, that given half a chance they will rebel against it. Not one nation has joined the New Order voluntarily; the nations which have not resisted, Hungary, Rumania, Bulgaria, were all of them trapped geographically; they were so isolated that no help could reach them, or they were surrounded so that there was nowhere they could retreat.

But the Norwegians can be reached by sea; they resisted and their resistance grows. The Dutch and the Belgians fought, and when they were defeated at home they fell back upon their ally in Britain and upon their empires overseas. The Greeks, backed up against the sea, which Britain controls, resisted, and now the Yugoslavs who also have a backdoor to the sea and to the free nations overseas. The evidence is very strong, therefore, that in Europe the will to resist Hitler and to defeat him is immense and that the problem is to furnish the people of Europe with the means and with the opportunity of their own liberation. If the will to resist did not exist in the souls of Europeans, it would be vain to suppose that an American army could provide freedom for peoples who will not fight for it. If, on the other hand, the will to resist is there, as indeed it is and ever more fiercely, then we can rest assured that the best troops for fighting in Europe will be Europeans fighting for their own homes, their own altars, their own flags, their own hope of life itself.

The task of the British in the first instance is to see to it that the peoples of Europe are not cut off hopelessly and finally from their sources of supply overseas. That means that Britain itself must survive

the assault victoriously, and must be able to control the seas. It does not mean that the British must overrun Europe. The troops that the British land in Europe cannot be, and are not intended to be, an army for the "invasion" of Europe. They are a rallying point at the other end of the lines of supply which it is Britain's great mission, assisted by the United States, to maintain. These British landing forces are not huge armies such as we saw in the other war; they are a moral and physical connection with the free nations overseas—a nucleus around which the peoples themselves can gather, can steel themselves, can catch their breath, and organize their resistance. For every British soldier landed in Europe, a thousand other soldiers come forward from among the invaded and threatened peoples themselves. And that is how the army for the liberation of Europe, and the world, is going to be recruited.

The task we have set ourselves is to provide the weapons for the army of liberation—for this army which will before the tale is finished arise from every corner of Europe if only the weapons are made, and there are the ships to deliver them, and the free peoples hold the command of the seas.

Washington Post, March 29, 1941.

## YUGOSLAVIA GRIEF TO NAZIS

**Hitler Might Be Smart Not to Resort to Force to Repair Damage to Prestige.**

BY DEWITT MACKENZIE

Taking it all in all, Herr Hitler might be smart if he decided to ignore the Yugoslav rebuff for the time being, and not try to repair by force the damage to Nazi prestige and pride.

That would be an uncommonly nasty dose to swallow. Still it would be mild discomfort to what might develop from an attack on this big Balkan state.

Of course, a quick victory over the Yugoslavs would tend to restore the situation and greatly strengthen the German position on the peninsula. If it weren't carried out with blitzkrieg speed, however—if this fresh war dragged on—Hitler might have started an avalanche of grief which ultimately would overwhelm him.

There is no present reason to assume that the Nazis could knock this fighting people out quickly. Hitler's war machine, to be sure, is far superior to theirs, but they are among the world's best soldiers and have strong natural defenses which would demand the best efforts of the German to overcome.

### *Munitions Hard to Replace*

The Yugoslavs have close to a million and a quarter men mobilized. They are well armed for the Balkans, but not as compared with the Germans. Unfortunately for the Yugoslavs, much of their equipment and munitions came from Germany or the great Skoda munition works of Czecho-Slovakia, which the Nazis now possess. This might make replacements difficult, and that's where American and British aid would come in.

The far superior mechanical equipment, and air force of the Germans likely would enable them to sweep forward quickly in the Danube Basin in Northern Yugoslavia. Belgrade, the capital, certainly would be in grave danger from the outset.

Much of the country, however, is mountainous and not adapted to the use of mechanized forces. It calls for good old-fashioned mountain fighting, in which the Yugoslavs are expert. The Greeks have given a fair demonstration of what the defenders of a mountain country can do to invaders.

#### *Would Help Allied Cause*

A German attack on Yugoslavia at this junction might work out to the great advantage of the Anglo-Allies, since it would open up a new front and give them a chance to get at the Nazi right wing, which rests along the Yugoslav-Bulgarian border at the moment. The greatest boon to the Allies would be the throwing open of the great Vardar Valley of Southern Yugoslavia to their troops.

I'm afraid you'll have to get your maps out in order to fix the lay of the land in your minds. It really isn't at all complicated or hard to remember.

This historic Vardar Valley is the route the Germans would like to use for their attack on the strategic port of Salonika—the Old Thessalonica of Bible times. Instead, until they were able to fight their way through the Vardar, they would have to employ the far less desirable Struma Valley in Bulgaria, to the east.

This would give the Greeks and the British a chance to defend Salonika from the east of the Vardar. It also would permit them to drive up the Vardar to try to turn the Nazi right wing.

Meantime, the Allies would figure on cleaning the Italians out of Albania in quick order, being able to operate through Yugoslavia. The British fleet also would be able to protect Yugoslavia's long Dalmatian Coast on the Adriatic.

The Yugoslavs and Greeks between them have 2,000,000 men under arms—a numerically formidable force. The British have maybe 100,000 with several hundred planes and equipment already in Greece and expect to have 300,000 men there shortly. Should the tide of battle favor the Allies, Turkey likely would join them in an offensive up the peninsula against the Germans, adding a couple of million more troops to the attack.

As opposed to this potential Allied army the Germans at present have maybe 600,000 troops and equipment available in Bulgaria and Greece and of these about a quarter million are massed on the Greco-Bulgarian frontier. The Rumanians also have a million men under arms and Bulgaria about half that number, but how much aid they would be to the Nazis is problematical.

Washington Evening Star, March 29, 1941

### **YUGOSLAVIA GIVES HITLER A SURPRISE**

**Setback in Balkans, However, Is Harder On Mussolini.**

BY COL. FREDERICK PALMER

The more the upset in the Balkan military situation is studied, the more far-reaching its military consequences appear.

War is surprise, and here is surprise for Adolf Hitler, in his first real, big setback. Bad as the news is for him, it is still worse for Benito Mussolini.

If Hitler persists in what he expected to accomplish without firing a shot, it will cost him immense

casualties in a prolonged ordeal. His army will be in for an unfamiliar kind of fighting under unfamiliar conditions, unless the Serbs have changed since I knew them at war in their own country.

"We have seen how Mussolini's war machine is taking it," one of our army chiefs said. "Now we shall see how the Nazi war machine will take it when things are not going according to schedule."

The Yugoslavs stand pat, independent, mobilized on their frontiers, prepared to fire on any invader. In place of a march through Southern Yugoslavia, the Germans must shoot their way through into the valley of the Vardar River, which they need to channel their advance into Greece.

#### *Magic Fails to Work*

Time in their favor, they were proceeding with their customary thorough preparations, confident in their foreknowledge of all problems they had to solve. As usual, they expected to provide all the surprises of the campaign and to be subject to none from the enemy.

Then came the surprise for them of the British landing an army in Greece. Now Yugoslavia has sprung another. The preliminaries for a Nazi blitzkrieg had not proceeded according to plan. The old magic had failed to work.

Rather than attack Yugoslavia, Hitler may prefer to bluster to gain his ends, in a bargain which will make sure of the copper, grain and mutton he gets from Yugoslavia. That means his army cannot have the Vardar Valley for its advance. It will have to fight the Anglo-Greek armies on a much narrower front and on difficult ground.

But can the Fuehrer afford to confess to Josef Stalin, Japan's touring Yosuke Matsuoka and his own people, that his previously successful technique had failed to scare either the Yugoslavs or the Turks?

#### *Contempt for Italy*

In the singular strategic and tactical situation of the mutually flanking frontiers of Yugoslavia and the German occupied countries the Yugoslavian Army has most tempting game in a swift rush on Albania, Northern Albania is struck out in a salient into Yugoslavia, while the Greek Army is making a new boundary for Southern Albania, despite all the reserves Mussolini has expended in his counteroffensives.

Yugoslavians do not forget that Italy filched the port of Fiume on the Adriatic Sea from them, and Mussolini's occupation of Albania was the first step toward the conquest of the Balkans. Serbians, Croats and Slovenes—the three sectional elements that comprise Yugoslavia—are a unit in their contempt and antipathy for Italy. In concerted action with the Greeks they should be able to drive the Italians into the Adriatic.

Washington Evening Star, March 29, 1941.

### **BELGRADE-BERLIN-TOKIO**

The repercussions of the revolutionary overturn in Belgrade have nowhere been more shattering than upon German-Japanese relations. The startling news must have burst like a bombshell amid the elaborate

pageantry of Berlin, all decked out for the visit of Mr. Matsuoka, Japan's Foreign Minister.

Up to that crucial moment, everything had gone off splendidly. Mr. Matsuoka had himself pulled a clever trick en route, when he succeeded in getting an audience with Joseph Stalin during his brief stopover in Moscow. Report has it that this was accomplished by bringing personal gifts from the Japanese Emperor to the Russian dictator. Stalin, himself an Oriental, appreciated the significance of this unprecedented gesture from the God-Emperor. It was indeed an honor.

Fresh from this diplomatic success, Mr. Matsuoka was received in Berlin with all the pomp of which Propaganda Master Goebbels is capable. A gigantic floral symbol of the rising sun greeted him as he stepped from his train, and a series of splendid ceremonies ensued. Yugoslavia's formal adhesion to the axis was possibly the most tangible evidence of German might that was offered to him. All was going according to plan.

Then came the news from Belgrade! Perhaps Hitler controlled himself, but it is easy to imagine his inner feelings. Mr. Matsuoka doubtless maintained a bland smile, since that is the Japanese tradition. Yet he must have had strange thoughts about the permanence of the "new order" in Europe which the Fuehrer had proclaimed as solidly established. That was one of the things which the Japanese had come many thousands of miles to investigate. To Japan, it was a matter of basic importance (since a German dominance in Europe could alone justify the risk of a supreme Japanese bid for the mastery of East Asia).

Even though Britain's annihilation were not yet certain, Japan might still be tempted to gamble against Britain and America in the Far East if Hitler's continental grip was so firm that he could use this as a lever to compel Moscow to free Japan's hands for an all-out stroke against Singapore and the Dutch Indies. Until Yugoslavia kicked over the traces, Hitler had a colorable argument that such was the case. Now, it is hard to see how Mr. Matsuoka can be convinced. Only the subjection of defiant Yugoslavia and the ejection of Britain from its Balkan foothold can vindicate German claims to continental mastery. But this seemingly can be done solely through a major campaign, fought certainly against Yugoslavia, Britain and Greece, and possibly against Turkey as well. Meanwhile, Stalin's hands will be free as never before in this war, and he will thus be much less amenable to German pressure on behalf of the Japanese axis partner. Yet some sort of Russian assurance is the condition prerequisite to full-fledged Japanese action.

Those indomitable Serbs have thus thrown a large-sized monkey wrench into the axis machinery. Official communiques from Berlin, of course, will continue to assert perfect harmony of views and co-ordinated policies. But more tangible proofs are needed to convince a skeptical outer world. Until they are forthcoming, the wise presumption will be that the big party in Berlin is pretty well spoiled.

(EDITORIAL)

Washington Evening Star, March 29, 1941

## SERBS WILL BE SERBS

These Yugoslavs who have tossed a monkey wrench into the Nazi time schedule are a hardy people. They are more than hardy; they are tough. When they demonstrated in favor of repudiation of the Axis alliance—bearing banners proclaiming, "If this government will not do what we want, we'll get one that will"—they were running true to form. Getting rid of governments that failed to represent the people, and getting governments that did, is an old custom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes.

The Serbs, the most numerous and most powerful element in the kingdom, exemplify the dominant characteristics of a region that has been a battleground for centuries, and a people who have never dodged a fight. Serbia is a country of peasant farmers, without large estates or much industry. It is blessed with a corn and hog economy, and few peoples raised on that diet stand for being shoved around too long or too hard. This goes far toward explaining the high mortality rate, over the last millenium, of Serbian rulers and Serbian governments—to say nothing of Serbian foes. The old cliché, "Happy the land that has no history," certainly cannot be applied to Serbia. But through it all, the Serbs have retained their passionate abhorrence of being shoved around by their own kind, or by outsiders. They have retained their passion for rugged individualism. They have never fallen for the fallacy of selling their birthright for "security."

They had a taste of "security" under the Turks. They didn't like it, and there is no reason to believe that they would like it any better under the swastika than they did under the crescent.

(Editorial)

Chicago Daily News, March 29, 1941

## YUGOSLAVIA REVOLTS

It is yet too early to grasp the whole significance of the swift and dramatic climax to the turbulent events at Belgrade. But it is already plain that the Yugoslav revolution represents a political defeat of the first magnitude for Hitler's New Order. The arrests of Premier Cvetkovich, of Cincar-Markovich, the foreign minister, and later of Prince Paul, the Chief Regent, can be interpreted only as Mr. Churchill interpreted them yesterday—as a complete repudiation by the Yugoslavs of the humiliating treaty signed last Tuesday in Vienna. One report says that already the new government has formally denounced the treaty. Whether or not this proves to be accurate, the mood of the people is a sufficient guarantee that appeasement by Yugoslavia is at an end. Even if it wished to cling to the discredited treaty a government whose most urgent task is to restore order and to defend a gravely endangered nation would be unlikely to risk a policy so conducive to civil war.

Belgrade has experienced a popular uprising and not a palace revolution. This is plain from the fiercely anti-German temper of the rioting students, of the café crowds, of the peasants who marched on the capital and the mountaineers who marched on Cetinje, and from the encouragement given to the demonstrators by the Orthodox clergy. The revolt sprang from

the refusal of the Yugoslav people, especially the Serbs and Montenegrins, to permit their independence to be relinquished under threats. Except for the ignominious end of the regency, the monarchy is not affected and the young King Peter comes to power only a few months earlier than had been planned.

Having reaffirmed their independence in this dramatic fashion, the Yugoslavs, to preserve it, may now have to fight the most formidable and ruthless war machine in all history. If so, they will fight, as their warlike history attests, fiercely and stubbornly; nor will they fight unaided. The door to Greece through Yugoslavia has been closed to Hitler and he can force an entrance only at great cost to himself and at the risk of exposing Germany to simultaneous war on two fronts.

Yet even more important than the immediate strategic implications of the revolution is the fact that the Yugoslavs have broken the hypnotic spell that Hitler has hitherto been able to exert on the Balkan nations. Until lately it seemed that under this spell they must march one by one into the maw of the Axis as the fascinated Bandar-log in the Jungle Book marched into the jaws of the python. The turn of events in Yugoslavia has done more than rejoice the Greeks and stiffen the courage of the Turks; it will have repercussions even in the occupied countries of Bulgaria and Rumania and perhaps elsewhere. Indeed, the Yugoslav revolution seems to mark a moral and psychological turning point fully as important to the outcome of the war as the military victories in Albania or those of the British in Africa.

(Editorial)

Washington Post, March 29, 1941.

## HITLER'S SETBACK IN YUGOSLAVIA WORTH ARMY CORPS TO BRITISH

**Wedge Seen Driven Into His "New Order" That May Mean Collapse Unless Fuehrer Wins Belgrade's Support.**

BY FELIX MORLEY

By the revolution which has swept Yugoslavia, following the adherence of its previous government to the axis, Hitler has encountered his first serious diplomatic defeat. Whatever course the development now takes, it has been worth an army corps to the British.

The importance of the overthrow of the men who sponsored and signed the axis agreement can best be measured by considering the situation as it looked immediately after that action. Nothing could then conceal the fact that Yugoslavia was being merged in the Nazi "new order."

No explanation or excuse could hide the magnitude of the rebuff not merely to Great Britain but also to the United States. For it was no secret that the administration had exerted every effort from Washington to prevent the affixing of the signatures which took place in Vienna last Tuesday.

The Germans themselves took delight in emphasizing the repudiation of British and American influence involved in the policy of Prince Paul, the regent of Yugoslavia. "Britons and Americans," said Hitler's own newspaper in Munich on Wednesday, "had staked all on one card in the hope of convincing Yugoslavia

that Germany harbored aggressive intentions." The measure of German elation then is the measure of the setback to Hitler's diplomacy now.

### *Further Irony for Berlin*

There is further irony for Berlin in the unfortunate assertion, for which somebody is now likely to get committed to concentration camp, that the timing of Viscount Halifax's speech to the Pilgrim Society was designed to divert attention from the Japanese Foreign Minister's visit to Berlin. Much more of a diversion is now being created by events in Yugoslavia.

Precisely because the Germans cheered too soon, however, it would be wise for this country not to make a similar mistake. When Prince Paul finally instructed his Premier and Foreign Minister to sign the treaty of alliance with Germany, he had good reason to regard that as the most desirable course. He certainly did not anticipate the rising which has resulted in his overthrow.

Evidently the regent was mistaken, especially in his estimate of the attitude and temper of the army. But just as evidently he fully expected enough popular support, with German backing, to enable him to carry his policy through to a successful conclusion. The overturn on Thursday does not mean that this anticipated support has been suddenly obliterated. It merely means that power has been seized by a faction the strength of which was underestimated by Prince Paul.

To appreciate the delicacy of the present balance in Yugoslavia, it is well to recall that the alternative name of that country is "Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes," these being the three dominant nationalities in its somewhat heterogeneous population. Between the Serbs and Croats, in particular, there has been rivalry since the formation of the kingdom, and this rivalry is unquestionably a factor in the present situation.

### *Support of Croats and Slovenes*

The old kingdom of Serbia is the nucleus of modern Yugoslavia, Serbian royalty provided the present monarchy and Serbians, until some two years ago, held the important posts in governments with centralizing policies which aroused much Croatian opposition. In consequence it was with the Croats and Slovenes, close to the old Austrian border, that German agents worked most actively. And it is in these districts that the policy of cooperation with Germany found most support.

The present revolt against the axis treaty is very evidently a Serbian revolt, with its strength in Belgrade and other centers having a large Serbian majority. Because of this a counter-revolt in Croatia and Slovenia is a distinct possibility, and one which the Germans may be expected to encourage to the best of their unquestioned ability in fomenting trouble.

The German counter moves now to be expected will be aided by Yugoslavia's economic subservience to the axis powers. Long before Prince Paul made his disruptive decision for political alliance with Germany, an economic alliance, on which Yugoslav prosperity has become dependent, had gradually formed. This, undoubtedly, was one of the factors on which the regent relied to carry his policy through to success.

On the other hand, Yugoslavia, above any of the other Balkan states, is a predominantly agricultural



country, more than able to feed itself and provide a living for its people, of the primitive sort to which they are accustomed, from its own resources.

#### *Sanctions Against Italy*

The willingness of the population to put principle above economic well-being was demonstrated when Yugoslavia joined in economic sanctions against Italy, one of her best markets and sources of supply, at the time of the invasion of Ethiopia. The Serbs, in particular, would not refrain from opposing Germany because that course would hurt their pocketbooks.

Moreover Yugoslavia like Greece, has successfully maintained a sizable foreign trade in spite of the steady trend toward incorporation in Germany's economic orbit. The extent of this is indicated by the announcement that there are now some 200,000 tons of Yugoslav shipping in non-European harbors, which would be turned over to Great Britain if their home ports come under German control. A large proportion of these vessels are now in the United States, with which Yugoslav trade, both export and import, is substantial.

Still another factor of importance is the dilemma which now confronts Germany with regard to military invasion of Yugoslavia. Having denied that any pressure of this sort was even threatened, it would now be doubly difficult to apply it. And to do so might readily transform the relative friendliness of Croats and Slovenes into hostility as bitter as that of the Serbs.

Both political and economic considerations therefore combine to make the situation in Yugoslavia one of most delicate balance. And because the tremorous nature of this balance is recognized in Berlin and London, in Moscow and in Washington, an immediate concentration of effort may be expected there.

#### *War's Course May Be Altered*

If Yugoslavia can be fully detached from the axis the whole character of the war will be altered, to Germany's disadvantage. If that country swings toward Berlin again, after the current defection, the blow will be the more serious because of the high hopes aroused by what Winston Churchill on Thursday called "great news." Events in Yugoslavia, that distant country of unpronounceable names and unfamiliar problems, have thus suddenly become of the greatest moment to all Americans.

If Hitler gains Yugoslavia now, it will presumably mean the end of Greek resistance and the consolidation of the entire continent of Europe under the "new order." But if the Fuehrer's grip there is cast off it means a wedge driven into that "new order" which may in time split Germany's empire asunder. King Peter of Yugoslavia, not yet 18 years of age, has been pushed forward by events into a position of almost supreme importance on the world stage.

This war bears no comparison with any of its predecessors. Soldiers are safer than civilians. Propaganda plays a larger part than bullets. Endurance is a more important factor than courage. So it seems wholly in order that, with the coming of this somber spring, a relatively unknown country should suddenly rise to a position of pre-eminent interest.

Washington Evening Star, March 30, 1941.

#### **YUGOSLAVIA'S ACTION NOT SURPRISING HERE**

#### **Simovich Moving Spirit in Revolution Overthrowing Regime.**

BY CONSTANTINE BROWN

The situation in the Balkans took a dramatic turn in favor of the Allies Thursday when the boy King Peter—supported by the army—assumed the reins of government in Belgrade and decided to discard the Vienna agreement with the axis.

The action of the Yugoslav Army was not particularly surprising to those in high position in Washington. In telephone conversations with the United States since Monday—when only censored information was reaching the outside world from Belgrade—Arthur Bliss Lane, our Minister, had reported that the army was determined not to accept the surrender arranged by the venal Markovich government, and might precipitate a coup d'etat with the tacit approval of the weak regent, Prince Paul.

Arrests of Serbian patriots by the police, under Markovich's direction, had cast doubt on how effective a revolution might be. But Wednesday afternoon high officials here decided that a coup d'etat was inevitable when the army, ordered out in Belgrade by Cetinje Craguevatz to disperse participants in a demonstration, refused to fire upon the crowd of unarmed peasants and students. When police attempted to take away ammunition, in order to put it "in a place of safety," they were routed by the army itself. Unconfirmed reports here indicate that a number of Gestapo agents co-operating with the police were manhandled severely.

#### *Simovich Moving Spirit in Revolution*

Matters were brought to a head by the failure of the Markovich government to arrest two high-ranking officials. Gen. Simovich, who was retired a few weeks ago because the Germans considered him "a British tool," was the moving spirit in the revolution. Simovich expressed openly, to the Prince Regent and the cabinet, his opinion that the proposed treaty with the Reich was a disgraceful surrender of the country. To the objection that the Yugoslav Army did not possess weapons to resist an eventual German attack, Simovich replied that the army was well equipped with small arms, artillery and reconnaissance planes, and was fully able to meet any menace in the mountains of Macedonia and the Vardar Valley. He pointed out further that in case of a German onslaught the British were prepared to bring from Greek ports sufficient reinforcements—and particularly war material—to enable the Yugoslav Army to fight for many months. He also told the government he had received reports from Washington that American production of war material will be stepped up soon and that Yugoslavia will benefit under the terms of the lease-lend bill.

Markovich wanted to arrest General Simovich, but was restrained by the fear of precipitating a rebellion in the army.

Another officer who played an important role was the Chief of Staff, Gen. Kossitch T. Koosévitch, who for the last two years has been the chief mentor of King Peter. Gen. Koosévitch used to be an ardent admirer of the assassinated King Alexander. He endeavored to instill in the King's son the traditional Serbian fighting spirit.



When the Vienna agreement was signed, it transpired that Markovich and Von Ribbentrop had agreed to defer the time for Peter's assumption of the active duties of the kingship, which had been set for next July when he will reach the age of 18. Their plan was to have Prince Paul remain Regent throughout the world emergency—that is to say, until the end of the war. News of this understanding, which reached the army only on Tuesday, was the spark that touched off the Serbian powder keg.

#### *King Agreed to Act*

Gen. Koosevitch told the King it was his duty to his country and to the memory of his late father to take over the reins of government immediately. Friendly conversations followed between army leaders and Prince Paul. The Regent is reported to have expressed himself as being delighted with the solution. He never was a soldier. He hated all the discomforts connected with war and civil strife. It was an ordeal for him even to don a uniform to attend war games or reviews.

The new Belgrade regime does not want to go to war. Its platform calls for economic co-operation with the Reich as in the past, but excludes partnership with the axis. However, the new leaders realize that Yugoslavia henceforth will be Germany's No. 1 enemy and that Hitler will endeavor to crush the country.

The action of the Belgrade military government was the first serious slap in the face that Hitler has received since he became Reichsfuehrer. It came at a most critical time from both the psychological and military standpoints. Premier Matsuoka of Japan had arrived in Berlin. Hitler was proudly showing him how independent European states could be made to fall into the Reich's lap by mere threat and show of force. To have Yugoslavia turn against him, and destroy a treaty on which German diplomats had worked harder than on any other, was most distressing. It is felt that the Fuehrer cannot accept the situation lying down.

#### *Admitted Yugoslavia Was Key*

From the military standpoint, the successful revolt means that henceforth Germany may be engaged in a real war in the Balkans. Theretofore, reliable information from Berlin had indicated that Hitler and Von Ribbentrop were boasting that the Greeks would surrender after only perfunctory resistance in the Struma Valley, and that the British would be compelled to clear out of the Balkans in order to avoid a second Narvik.

Berlin added that Turkey's bellicose attitude would change within a week when Ismet Inonu realized that the game in the Balkans was up.

By these boasts the Wilhelmstrasse admitted that the key to the Balkans was Yugoslavia, which they felt was safely in Hitler's pocket. The unexpected shift—so far as Berlin was concerned—of the Yugoslavian Army now is expected to force Germany to wage a serious war in the Balkans.

Stuka bombers and panzer divisions are much less important there than in any other theater of war where the Nazi army has been victorious. It is believed here that at present Germany does not have enough troops concentrated between the Carpathian Mountains and the Balkans to fight successfully

against the Greek-British forces in the Struma Valley and at the same time to wage war against the Serbs in the Vardar Valley and the Macedonian Mountains. Important reinforcements will have to be sent immediately—and notwithstanding that the Reich armies can move along interior lines, it is expected to take at least four weeks to get the necessary additional divisions to Yugoslavia.

Meanwhile, the British are expected to rush to that section of Europe which now appears likely to become Germany's Achilles' heel all the war material that is available.

Washington Evening Star, March 30, 1941.

#### **YUGOSLAVIA'S INNER DANGER**

Yugoslavia's defiance of Germany, the virtual nullification of the axis pact and the reported closing of the Danube to German oil barges have dealt the Reich a body blow strategically, economically, and above all in prestige. Yet Germany moves cautiously. It utters no diplomatic ultimatum and its great war machine is held in leash.

Why this surprising restraint? In part, it is doubtless due to military necessities. Germany's Balkan armies will have to be reinforced before starting what would certainly be a major war. Yet each passing day so damages the Reich's moral position throughout Europe, and toward Japan that large military risks would be justified. German hesitancy presumably is due in large part to the hope that the disaster may be rectified by "softening" Yugoslavia from within.

Despite its heroic stand, Yugoslavia has internal weaknesses. The Yugoslavs, though basically one in blood, were politically united only a generation ago, at the close of the Great War. The hard core of the nation are the Serbs, a primitive peasant folk fanatically devoted to their independence, won a century ago after many generations of struggle against their former Turkish masters. Their intense nationalism has a religious tinge from their devotion to their Orthodox Church, which is the symbol of their national identity. The Serbs compose about two-fifths of the population, which totals some 15,000,000. The Serbs initiated the recent revolution and they stand ready to fight to the death against any axis assault.

Very different in history and temperament are the Croats and Slovenes of the northern provinces. These folk were civilized and Christianized from the West. They are therefore Roman Catholics, use the Latin alphabet and look westward for their culture and attitude toward life. Never under Turkish rule, they formed part of the Hapsburg Empire until it vanished during the Great War.

When the South Slavs were united by the peace settlement two decades ago, the original idea was that of a federal union, indicated by its title: Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes. But the Serbs, who had done the fighting and made the sacrifices, felt the new country must be strong in order to endure; so they continued to rule and refused to give Croats and Slovenes an equal share in running things. Furthermore, there was the large Mohammedan element in Bosnia, Yugoslav in blood yet alien to both Serbs and Croats in culture and outlook. Those Moslems also wanted special rights. They played politics with the Croats. Indeed, there were other dissatisfied minorities—pro-

Bulgarian Slavs in Macedonia, and Magyar or German blocs north of the Danube, who were quite unreconciled to inclusion within the new boundaries.

Political discords grew so serious that normal parliamentary life broke down, and the Serbs, patriotic but rough-handed, tightened their grip even more. King Alexander, father of the present boy monarch, Peter II, established a virtual dictatorship, run by the Serbs he could trust. This infuriated the Croats, many of whom plotted secession and the break-up of a state which had abandoned its original federal title and now called itself frankly "Yugoslavia," the Land of the South Slavs.

When the great crisis of August, 1939, heralded a new European war, Prince Paul, the Regent, attempted to soften the bitter feud between Serbs and Croat-Slovenes by giving those provinces local self-government and taking their leaders into his cabinet. Now the Serbs are in the saddle once more, and the Croat-Slovenes are uneasy at the prospect. That gives German propaganda its opportunity, which will doubtless be used as a partial substitute for naked force.

(Editorial)

Washington Evening Star, March 30, 1941.

### UNITY: NOW OR NEVER

Those who never doubted the feeling for independence and personality which animates the people of Yugoslavia have been triumphantly justified in their faith. But the testing time has yet to come. The initial note of defiance, clarion though it is, must be sustained unswervingly against the threats which are now coming out of Berlin. Otherwise the last state will be so much worse than the first for Yugoslavia that there will be no more Yugoslavia.

That Hitler must take measures to repair the blow to his prestige which the Yugoslav coup has administered may be taken for granted. The question is over the form of these measures. It is plain to the meanest intelligence that in general Hitler always tries to avoid fighting for his conquests. He prefers to employ the strategy of terror—to capitalize upon the weakness of leaders and the factionalism of national groups till there is no core left in a state where-with to resist aggression. In other words, he husbands his own resources by allowing a state to beat itself.

In this case there is a particular reason for supposing that he will avoid war. There is nothing that the Fuehrer dreads more than the establishment of a Balkan front. This is the consensus of informed American opinion, and it must always be remembered that here in America we are uniquely favored both with news of Hitler's Germany and with opportunities for a fearless appraisal of the Hitler phenomenon. Hitler has promised to give his people the "final victory" this year. All his resources, therefore, must be nursed for a concentrated all-out attempt to smash British resistance. The need is emphasized by the manner in which the British are cleaning up the remains of the Italian navy with the view of securing a war-making lodgment on the European continent.

From Hitler's standpoint, Yugoslavia must seem to be an easy mark for the promotion of conquest from within. A country built on a complex of racial groups, the three main divisions are Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes, and the three are all honored in the title of Yugoslavia as a triune kingdom. In no country is there more political particularism as a result of this mixture. In Croatia, especially, the particularism has been expressed in an independence movement which has often threatened Yugoslav unity. This is precisely the type of situation which, undoubtedly, Hitler is right now fashioning his weapons to exploit.

Berlin no doubt will first try to promote a schism by threatening the invasion of Croatia. It so happens that this enclave affords access along the River Sane from the Austrian Tyrol and along the valley of the Danube from Hungary. The ease of access is only geographical. Politically, as we have said, an invasion would be the fat in the fire for Hitler, but he will not let the Yugoslavs know that. For his gamble, however, he must rely upon the hope that fear of invasion will create the internal division within Yugoslavia which would dispense with invasion.

The responsibility for resisting this bluff from Berlin rests singularly upon one man. He is Dr. Matchek, the Croat leader, who is a member of King Peter's first government, as he was of the predecessor government. He is a statesman who has given his life to the furtherance of Croatian aspirations and the well-being of the Croatian people, and is well and favorably known far beyond the borders of Yugoslavia. In no country more than ours is the test to which this leader and his colleagues are being subjected under such scrutiny. Our interest coincides precisely with that of Dr. Matchek. It is to see Yugoslavia ride through the storm, with its independence unsullied. And we have bolstered up the Yugoslav note of defiance with our pledge of moral support and material assistance. No Yugoslav needs to doubt that the full weight of the President's great authority in this country and in the world at large is back of this pledge. That it will be redeemed is evident from the Nation-wide acclamation which has greeted Yugoslavia's decision to reject a role as bonds slave to Hitler.

But independence for Yugoslavia and the particularism of Croatia can be saved only by cleaving to unity. It can be maintained only by the nerving of the entire state into resistance against a bombardment of coercion which will test the stoutest heart. Mill, in his "Essay on Liberty," which is widely read in Yugoslavia, says that liberty cannot be preserved unless one is equal to the exertions necessary to sustain it. If Yugoslavia is equal to them today, she will have secured her unity, and the component parts of the kingdom will have insured their diversity. If she isn't she will inevitably come under the steam roller which is crushing the national unities of Europe and the diversities of Europe into a helot pattern serving only a Nazi master race. The evidence from Belgrade, however, is that Hitler is going to find that his contempt for the dignity of the individual has proven to be his epitaph.

(Editorial)

Washington Post, March 30, 1941.

## ON THE RECORD

### Young King Peter Rules a Yugoslavia United Against Hitler Shenanigans.

BY DOROTHY THOMPSON

When young King Peter of Yugoslavia entered the Cathedral of the Orthodox Church and kissed the cross, he took upon his youthful shoulders the protection of the kingdom that his father fought for, founded, and ruled until his brutal assassination by a stooge of Mussolini and of Hitler.

The stooge, Pavlic, is still living in Italy.

It was with Italy and Italy's mightier partner, Hitler, that the Kingdom of the South Slavs was about to sign a pact. But pacts signed with assassins don't usually do much for a country.

In 1914 Peter's father, Alexander, led his people in war against an Austria that was backed up by Germany. It was a very costly war for Serbia. The Serbia of those days had only three or four million people; Serbia was overrun by German-Austrian troops; Belgrade was ruined; 350,000 Serbs were killed in battle. But in that war, the Serbians proved that they were the finest fighters of the Balkans.

They fought the Austrians, and the Germans, because they wanted the union of the South Slavs—Serbs, Croats, Bosnians, Montenegrins, Slovenians. Serbia had been independent. The others had been under Austrian rule. Part were Orthodox, part were Catholic, and there were minor differences in their languages. They had hard times. Italy did not want a strong kingdom of the South Slavs on the Adriatic, and backed up every discontented group that it could find. Hungary wanted Croatia—for in the old Austrian-Hungarian Army Croatia had been ruled by Hungary.

There was a good deal of internal pulling and hauling. Sometimes it looked as though the new country would drop apart. But it didn't. It began more and more to pull together. Matchek, the Croatian leader of the Peasants' Party, helped keep it together.

#### *Promise to Defend Integrity a Joke*

Hitler promising to defend the territorial integrity of Yugoslavia forever was a joke. Maybe he would let the frontiers stand. But frontiers don't mean much if Nazis are all over the place telling you what you must and must not do.

Hitler despises the South Slavs. He left Austria and joined the German Army because he thought that even the Austro-Hungarian Empire gave the Slavs too much consideration. He goes into all that in "Mein Kampf." Germany should rule the Danube and all the Slavs and Magyars and everybody else are second-rate folks that need the iron hand. If the South Slavs couldn't get on with Austria, they could not possibly welcome the vast Third Reich with its theory of racial domination.

The South Slavs were the step-children of the old empire. Hewers of wood and carriers of water. Now they have been invited to step into the parlor and make a pact to become again hewers of wood and carriers of water for German overlords.

Prince Paul, the Regent, was a cousin of the martyred King. He was brought up abroad, educated in Oxford, is cultivated, and ever so slightly bored with his rough peasants. He patronized the arts, and owns

one of the finest Graecos in the world. He loves music. He patronized the great Yugoslav sculptor, Mestrovic. But he was not close to the people. He was not like Alexander, who had grown up with them, and was one of them.

In Belgrade there is a museum. It contains a wax figure of the martyred Alexander, dressed in the clothes he wore when he was shot in Marseilles. The automobile is there, too, in which he was riding, with the bullet holes all over it, and you think it's a pretty shabby automobile for a King to ride in. The King's blood is clotted all over the uniform, and it's a ghastly sight altogether.

Every Sunday thousands of Serbs go and look at that. And they know that Alexander was shot along with the French Foreign Minister Barthou, because the powers that now call themselves the axis did not like his policy of staying loyal to the countries that helped set the South Slavs free—France and Britain and the United States.

#### *Serbs Rather Primitive People*

The South Slavs, especially the Serbs, are a rather primitive people. Foreigners used to crack jokes about their new capital, Belgrade, which certainly is no Paris. Zagreb, the capital of Croatia, is much more beautiful and much more civilized.

But the fathers of every youth alive fought, and a lot of them died, for the kingdom of Alexander and the union of the South Slavs. They are mostly peasants, almost all of them own land, and they are free men the way independent farmers always are. They have no snobbery or sense of caste. They are immensely hospitable. They are deeply religious.

They all have something to lose; their land, their freedom, their country. Like most deeply religious people they don't think much about death. Death comes to all men sooner or later. And they had to fight terribly to preserve Serbia and make the country they have.

What the South Slavs have done by a popular rising, means more than the fact that Hitler can't get anything more in the Balkans by shenanigans. They spit in Hitler's eye in a politically critical moment—just when the Fuehrer was showing Matsuoka around Berlin and trying to persuade him that he had all Europe with him; that it was the British warmongers who were trying to stir up trouble; otherwise all Europe was just pining to enter his new order.

How anxious the Yugoslavs were to enter it was first indicated by the fact that not a workman would help move the train that was to carry the delegation to Berlin to sign the pact; Hitler had to send a train for the delegation.

As for the British "warmongers"—I was in Yugoslavia less than a year ago and distressed to see that the British influence was practically non-existent, while German agents were as thick as maggots in an overripe cheese.

The Yugoslav rising is of a national revolutionary nature. Certainly the influence of Russia is strong there, but it is not strong by virtue of Communism. The Yugoslavs are practically immune from Communism, being land-owning peasants. But they remember that Russia sprang to them in the last war and Russia is the "mother of the Slavs."

## *Europe Rejoices at Yugoslav Gesture*

There is not a nation in Europe whose people are not rejoicing over the Yugoslav gesture.

The new order of the continent has been formed by terror and blackmail. The Yugoslav rising will have joyful reactions even in the countries that once oppressed the South Slavs—In Austria and Hungary—who no more want to live under Hitler's yoke than do the South Slavs. How the Poles and Czechs must feel needs little imagination to picture. The psychological and political reactions are perhaps more important than the military.

For Hitler has again made the mistake that will eventually and certainly cost him this war. He believes that all peoples are, including his own, cowardly and corrupt. In every country there are cliques that are both. But peoples are neither. Lincoln was right, and Hitler is wrong. "You can fool some of the people all the time, and all of the people some of the time, but not all the people all of the time."

As for President Roosevelt. In him, Hitler is encountering a political leader who all over Europe has a magical name, and who has proved in the last few days that two can play the great game of politics and two can play the war of nerves.

And another person should come in for an orchid. The Yugoslav Minister in Washington, who never for an instant believed that given a shred of support his people would allow their nation to be sold down the Danube.

One last word. Italian Americans! You, whose labor and love have sent so much back to your homeland; you who have so beautiful and civilized a country; you whose Garibaldi and Cavour, and above all Mazzini, fought for the freedom of Italy because they believed in a free Europe—telegraph, cable, write to Italy, and tell your relatives and friends to get out of this war. To get out before it is too late! Too late for the birthplace of western civilization.

There was once a Greco-Roman world. There can never be a Nazi-Italian world. The country, built stone on stone and terrace on terrace by lovers of land and sunshine and form is in peril. You, Italian-Americans, can help save it. If you do the civilized world will not forget the Italian people and the Italian country.

Washington Evening Star, March 31, 1941.

## **YUGOSLAVIA'S HOUR**

### **Her Fate Hangs On Unity.**

BY ANDRE VISSON

The author of this article was among the few who were convinced that the Serbs would never betray their traditions and sacrifice their independence without fighting.

Any foreigner who lived among the Serbs and who could speak their language would have been sure of their resistance to Hitler's dictates.

How then could Prince Paul, who was not only Serb but a Karageorgevich—member of a family which symbolized Serbia's fighting spirit—have misjudged to such a point his own people?

Many Serbs had been reproaching him for years for having got estranged from them, for having become too cosmopolitan.

He was, in fact, cosmopolitan by his Russian—or even more Italian than Russian—mother, by his education at Oxford and by his artistic trend.

On the other hand, his frail health did not allow him to follow the military traditions of Karageorgevich. He preferred ancient pictures to war maps. And the French impressionists were more familiar to him than the instructors of the French military school of Saint Syr, where his uncle, Peter I, his father, Prince Arsene, and his cousin, Alexander I, were trained.

To these educational and temperamental factors ought to be added the regrettable influence exerted on him by two women. His wife and his mother-in-law.

Princess Olga was extremely unpopular among the Serbs. They bitterly reproached her for behaving as if she were the first lady of the kingdom. They accused her of nourishing most dangerous ambitions in her husband. It is impossible, of course, to say whether these accusations were justified or not. Personally, for instance, I believe that Prince Paul was a weakling, but an honest man, who was prepared for any sacrifice in order to save the exterior and internal peace of the kingdom he had to hand over in September to his young nephew.

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It is certain, nevertheless, that his wife's attitude was one of the many reasons why Queen Marie four years ago established her home in a duplex apartment of a Chelsea house, in London—officially to be nearer to her two boys, who are still in an English school.

As to Prince Paul's mother-in-law, Grand Duchess Helena of Russia, she maintained most friendly relations with Goering and for years endeavored to convince Paul that Hitler was the only man who could have saved Europe from communism.

The mystic side of Paul's character, which he inherited from his mother, Aurore Demidoff, Princess of San Donato, sometimes reacted on these appeals from his mother-in-law.

Paul, who was otherwise most pro-British by his background, was influenced by the Germans also through the medium of his brother-in-law, the Bavarian Count Toerring von Jettelsbach, a cousin of Leopold of the Belgians and married to Princess Olga's sister, Elisabeth.

As to the Yugoslav politicians' influence on Paul, two men especially were close to him, since he dismissed in February, 1939, Milan Stoyadinovich, who had been his confidant but who had become too overconfident and pro-totalitarian.

One of these two men, Msgr. Anton Koroshetz, leader of the Slovene Catholic Party and Yugoslavia's most influential "appeaser," died three months ago.

The other is still alive. It is Dr. Vladimir—(Vlatko, as the Croats call him)—Machek, who has to decide, in these fateful days on Yugoslavia's future.

And here is Yugoslavia's drama.

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I explained in my previous article on Yugoslavia that Dr. Machek is not pro-Nazi. Excepting the small minority "Frankovei," reaching hardly 5 per cent, and whose leader, Ante Pavelich, living in Italy, dreams to become, with the Axis' help, the Croatian Quisling, there are no pro-Nazi Croats.

But the Croatians, who have otherwise many good qualities—they are industrious people with fine artistic trend—have lived unfortunately for centuries with a complex of inferiority

They are courageous, but for nine centuries they have not fought under their own flag. For centuries they lived with the obsession of obtaining home rule. The Hapsburgs deceived them by sacrificing them to the Hungarians. The Hungarians deceived them by giving them a mere fiction of a phantom home rule. The Serbs deceived them because they did not obtain in Yugoslavia immediately what they expected. They wanted simultaneously a most complete home rule and participation in the highest administration of the new state.

The Serbs, especially the military men, who by their blood and by sacrifices of several generations made possible the reunion of the Serbs with the Croatians and the Slovenes in Yugoslavia, wanted to maintain control of the Yugoslav military and diplomatic apparatus till there should rise a new Croatian generation brought up in Yugoslav spirit, in a Yugoslav state.

Serbian military leaders were somehow suspicious of former functionaries and officers of the Austro-Hungarian Empire

And that is why the Croatian politicians, surrounding Dr. Machek, are so suspicious of the Serb generals.

Honest, but typically "borough" politicians, they cannot realize that at this historic hour when the problem is how to save Yugoslavia's freedom and thus contribute to freeing Europe, it is worse than a crime—as it is a stupidity—to be worried exclusively over Croatian home-rule

Nothing, moreover, indicates that this home rule is in danger.

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The three military leaders of the Serb revolt—Gen. Dushan Simovich the new prime minister; Gen. Petar Kossich, chief of the general staff and King Peter's military governor, and Gen. Bogoljub Ilich, who became the new war minister, have today only one thought how to organize most quickly and most efficiently the defense of Yugoslavia against any Axis aggression. And for such a defense the unity of Yugoslavs is of the vital importance.

The menace to Croatian home rule cannot certainly come from the civil members of Gen. Simovich's government.

Neither Micha Trifunovich, leader of Serb Radicals, nor Milan Grol, leader of the Democrats, nor the white-haired, wise Momchilo Ninichich, one of the best Yugoslav experts on international affairs, nor Slobodan Jovanovich, rector of Belgrade's university, commonly called "Serbia's intellectual conscience"—all men who fought together with Dr. Machek for Croatia's home rule, will threaten it at the hour when all their thoughts are directed to preserve Yugoslavia's unity and independence.

It must be hoped for Croatia's future and honor, that the Croatian politicians will not commit the fateful error of the Slovaks.

Some friends of Dr. Machek fear that in case of war Croatia would become the first Yugoslav battlefield and would have to be abandoned to Germans—the efficient defense of Yugoslavs being possible only in southern Serbia on the Greek and Bulgarian borders,

with assistance to the Greeks in order to clear Albania of Italians—and that Ante Pavelich would come to Croatia with the Axis forces and would seize Machek's place as leader of the Croatian people.

Fortunately, other Croatian politicians, as Dr. Ivo Shubashich, governor of Croatia, who fought in the World War on the Salonika front, with late King Alexander, are decided if necessary to fight together with the Serbs, to save both Yugoslavia's independence and Croatia's honor

As to the 1,200,000 Slovenes, though they are deeply pacifistic by temperament and though they know that in case of war, they will be, being placed between Italy and Germany, the first victim of Axis aggression, they are wholeheartedly with the Serbs.

One of the main moving stimuli of the Slovenes is their hatred for the Italians, who oppress a Slovene minority of 400,000-500,000 men in Trieste Province.

The Croatian minority in Italy is far from being so important. It must be hoped, however, that the feeling of their responsibility before history will prevent the Croatians from committing an error which would be in tragic contradiction to the ideology of all their past leading men, ardent partisans of Yugoslav unity, such as Bishop Strossmayer, their great poet, Mazuranić, and their great statesman, Ante Trumbich, who in the last war signed with the famous Serbian Prime Minister Nikola Pašich the declaration of Serbo-Croatian cooperation, which has become the cornerstone of Yugoslavia

Washington Post, March 31, 1941.

## TURN OF THE TIDE

### Hitler Faces a Dilemma

BY BARNET NOVER

Since he came to power eight years ago Adolf Hitler has suffered no diplomatic defeat more dramatic or more far-reaching than that of last Thursday when the Yugoslav army and people rose up in their wrath and kicked out the government which had signed a pact with the Axis.

The blow from Belgrade came at a singularly unpropitious moment for both Germany and Italy. Present in Berlin on Thursday was Yosuke Matsuoka, Japan's foreign minister, who had come to look over his nation's No. 1 ally at close range.

The Nazis have been very anxious to impress their visitor. Unless the United States can be forced by complications in the Far East to hold up supplies intended for Great Britain, the victory which Hitler has promised his people this year may not occur. That is why the Germans have been putting great pressure on Japan to exercise their nuisance capacity to the full by launching a drive on Singapore and the Dutch East Indies now. And after Yugoslavia signed the pact with the Axis they could assure Matsuoka that the Balkan situation was about to be cleared up in their favor, thus paving the way for the all-out attack on Great Britain.

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That pact has boomeranged. What happened in Yugoslavia on Thursday has struck the German and Italian dictatorships at a very vital point—their prestige. By the bold logic of the situation Yugoslavia

should have caved in under Axis pressure. She is all but surrounded by the Axis. Her army is not a fifth the size of the German army alone. And the Yugoslav forces are sadly lacking in the mechanized equipment and planes which Germany has in such abundance. That a nation so much under the guns of the Third Reich should have defied the Axis must constitute for Hitler an intolerable development calling for drastic reprisals.

Already the nature of the punishment which Hitler plans to mete out to the heroic Serbs is indicated by actions taken in Berlin. German residents in Yugoslavia, including wives of diplomatic officials at Belgrade, have been ordered home. The air line between Germany and Yugoslavia has been suspended, as has German navigation at the Yugoslav end of the Danube. And the German press has begun to play up alleged Yugoslav maltreatment of German citizens. These developments point to an early German attack on Yugoslavia. But that does not necessarily follow.

\* \* \*

It may be that Hitler hopes through such a campaign of intimidation to weaken Yugoslavia's will to resist. That he will succeed in doing so is most unlikely, even if Croat particularism prevents Yugoslavia from achieving that full measure of unity which the situation desperately calls for. The Nazis can, of course, be expected to do all they can to divide the nation internally.

As a last resort, Hitler may decide to use force. The Serbs are among the most magnificent fighting men in Europe. Their spirit of fearlessness needs no demonstration after what happened Thursday. It is probable that if war breaks out the German Wehrmacht can sooner or later overrun the country. But such military action would be a very expensive way of face-saving for Hitler. Not only would it mean the establishment of a second front, something which he has desperately sought to avert even to the point of buying off the Russians with large stretches of territory and other concessions, it would also mean the doom of Italy in Albania.

He can, therefore, be expected to exhaust every diplomatic device before ordering his armies to march.

The Yugoslav army could not and probably would not try defending the whole of their country. The most defensible area lies in the mountainous south where German mechanized equipment could not operate with anything like the efficiency it did in the Low Countries and France. And part of the Yugoslav forces could be used to surround the hapless Italians now harassed by the Greeks in Albania.

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If the historic event of last Thursday is a bad headache for Hitler it is an even worse one for Mussolini. The very day which saw Yugoslavia lifting high the banner of freedom also saw the fall of Cheren in Italian Somaliland and Harar, second largest city in Ethiopia. Now the Italian forces have abandoned Dire Dawa.

It is probably only a matter of weeks before British troops and Ethiopian patriots make a triumphal entry into Addis Ababa. In the meantime what is left of the Italian fleet received a bad battering in an encounter with British naval power in the Eastern Mediterranean over the week-end. The entry of Yugo-

slavia into the war might mark the end of Italy's war effort and make it difficult even for the Gestapo, which now pervades every avenue of Italian life, to keep the rickety structure of fascism standing.

What impression these events of the last week have had on Mr. Matsuoka can easily be imagined. We have a clew in the inspired suggestions from Berlin that unless Japan pitches in and helps the Axis now, the Axis, after victory has been won, won't lift a finger to help Japan. In other words Japan is now reluctant to act. Matsuoka, violently pro-Nazi and pro-Fascist though he is, may begin to have his doubts as to whether that victory will be won at all. Thursday's coup d'etat at Belgrade may well mark a turning point in the history not only of Europe but of the Far East.

Washington Post, March 31, 1941

### "DESPERATE AND HOPELESS"

Relations between the Nazis and Yugoslavia are described by Nazi circles as "desperate and hopeless." This evidently is intended to imply a fault on Yugoslavia's part. But the world knows, of course, that the desperate situation of German-Yugoslav affairs today is the direct result of Nazi demands that Yugoslavia surrender the substance of its independence.

Thus the Yugoslav crisis epitomizes the crisis of all Europe. That continent is in a desperate, though not hopeless, state, not because Germans demanded justice for themselves, but because the Nazis demanded that every other people submit its concepts of justice to the measurement of Nazi self-interest, a self-interest which is much narrower than that of the German people.

The Yugoslav crisis further clarifies the positions of this war's two major belligerents toward small nations' rights to neutrality. When the Nazis struck at Denmark and Norway, when they overran the Low Countries, Berlin's explanation of such aggression was that the neutrality of these small States was either being threatened by Britain or violated by the small nations themselves. But so far there has come no charge from Berlin that Yugoslav neutrality was either threatened or violated.

Perhaps Nazi might made it seem unnecessary to apologize; this time the small nation in question was commanded to join the Axis and become a corridor for Axis military operations. Reports from Belgrade and Istanbul indicate that Yugoslavia's new government asks only to remain neutral. But neutrality is not what the Nazis want of Yugoslavia. That is why the situation there is "desperate and hopeless."

(Editorial)

Christian Science Monitor, April 1, 1941.

### THIS CHANGING WORLD

Mussolini Reported Urging Hitler to Call for Show-down Between Axis and U. S.

BY CONSTANTINE BROWN

According to reports received in official quarters in Washington it appears that Premier Mussolini is the one who is urging Adolf Hitler to put an end to the present hide-and-seek diplomatic game between the



axis and the United States and bring about a showdown. It is true that the Italian note regarding the seizure of the ships is somewhat milder in tone than the German. But this is due to the usual arrangement between Italy and the Reich whereby Italy is only following the lead.

Mussolini is said to favor an immediate severance of diplomatic relations to be followed by war at the first opportune moment because he believes that such an action by the axis would force Japan to declare war on the United States.

How much of this is wishful thinking by Il Duce remains to be seen. There is no question that Foreign Minister Matsuoka traveled many thousands of miles to see the Fuehrer and Il Duce with the view of correlating the eventual actions of the Mediterranean and the Pacific ends of the axis. Everything looked as if he would return to Japan with some sort of a new agreement signed in Berlin and in Rome and with a cheerful report about the inevitability of a German-Italian victory. But things changed dramatically in the last eight days. And while the diplomatic defeat of Hitler in Yugoslavia may have not made a final impression on the Japanese foreign minister, there is no question that the naval defeat of the Italians—a defeat worse than that of the Russian fleet at the hands of the Japanese at Tsushima—must have had a disastrous effect on Matsuoka.

#### *Fuehrer Can Hold Temper*

The Fuehrer, however, knows how to keep his temper on important occasions, despite his violent outburst when the situation warrants it.

The German press and the radio broadcasters have been allowed to let loose all the bile against the Yugoslavs, but Hitler has made no inconsiderate move so far. The reason is that he does not want to start something he cannot finish successfully.

According to the latest reports, large forces which were stationed in France and the other occupied regions in Western Europe have received orders to move toward the East. It appears that the German high command is preparing an overwhelming army to crush the Balkans as quickly as possible. It will take some time, however, before such an army with all its cumbersome equipment is ready. Under the most favorable circumstances it won't reach the Balkans for another 10 days at least.

In the meantime the Yugoslavs, the Greeks and the British are rushing everything available to strengthen their defensive positions. Important convoys arrive daily in Greek ports with new war material for the Yugoslavs and the Greeks. Yugoslav ships in American ports will be commandeered by their government to take over to Greece food, medical supplies and possibly war material for the Yugoslav Army which is slowly withdrawing from the North and establishing itself in the South.

#### *Question of Feeding Army*

The question of feeding that army is of great importance. The Yugoslav high command has decided to abandon the most fertile plains of the country and will have to feed besides an army of between 900,000 and 1,200,000 men also a substantially increased population. Macedonia which is going to be the stage of conflict between the Germans and the Allies is a bar-

ren country. It has tremendous strategical advantages because of the rugged mountains and the gorges, but it can hardly feed a sparse population of shepherds. Hence the question of feeding the fighting forces of King Peter and the refugees who will inevitably follow the government, is one of those important problems which the United States will be compelled to solve very soon before the people begin to suffer from hunger.

The Yugoslav Government already has communicated to the United States Minister in Belgrade, Arthur Lane, a preliminary and rather imposing list of what Yugoslavia would like to have from the United States in the event she is attacked by Germany and her allies. It appears that the question of food—flour, canned beef, cornmeal, condensed milk—leather, cloth and medical supplies are among the most important items needed. The latter could be provided temporarily from Egypt, but the quantities available there are sufficient for the British Army alone.

Washington Evening Star, April 2, 1941.

### **THE CONTEST OVER CROATIA**

The opening attack in the German propaganda campaign against the new Yugoslav government in Belgrade has already begun, and the Nazis, as in the case of the Czecho-Slovak Republic, are trying to use the differences between two racial groups within the country to weaken the defenses of the country against an eventual German attack. The battleground chosen by the Nazis for this campaign is Croatia, where a large and compact racial group has long been struggling against the control of the Serbs in Belgrade. The Croat leaders in the old Cabinet which signed the pact with the Axis were for compromise, and the Vice-Premier, Dr. Machek, has long been identified with this policy.

The German strategy is clear. German and Italian agents have long been active in Croatia, where they have supported and encouraged the separatist tendencies of the Croat extremists. Croat terrorists have been given refuge in both Italy and Germany when they were driven out of their country, so that when the day came that the Axis powers needed them to weaken Yugoslavia internally they would be ready. For nearly twenty years, from the founding of the southern Slav kingdom until 1939, the Croats bitterly resisted all efforts by the Serbs to dominate them, while the Serbs fought Croat demands for local autonomy and greater freedom from the rule of Belgrade. Finally peace was made between the two, but this peace is still recent, and old quarrels have boiled to the surface periodically. The Nazis hope that they can make the Axis pact an issue so that the whole question of Croat-Serb relations can be raised and the Belgrade government weakened by the defection of the Croats. Not only is the Croat population important because it is the second largest racial group in Yugoslavia after the Serbs, but the Croats inhabit the northern section of the country, which would be the first to feel the brunt of any German military invasion of the country. It would be of great assistance to the Germans to have the Croat-Serb fight flare up at this time, and an equally telling blow for the Serbs, who are being strongly pressed on all sides.



To win this preliminary skirmish with the Nazis, the Belgrade government must hold Dr Machek in the Cabinet, or at least, if he insists on resigning because he is identified with the Axis pact, have him permit one of his close associates, such as the Governor of Croatia, Subashitch, to replace him, thereby holding the Croats loyal to Belgrade. The Germans, on the other hand, will try all methods in their power to have the Croats quit the government, so that they may weaken the hold of Belgrade on the northern province and use the more extreme Croats as a "fifth column" to undermine the Yugoslav state. The Germans lost their first attempt to control Yugoslavia through a subservient government. Apparently they are now reverting to the familiar pattern of attack, massing troops on the frontier, while trying to weaken Yugoslavia internally by the development of a split in the government and the formation of a possible "fifth column."

(Editorial)

New York Herald-Tribune, April 2, 1941.

### BALKAN SANDS RUN LOW

Relations between Yugoslavia and the axis are so critical that war seems to be almost inevitable. Yugoslav mobilization is practically complete and its borders are now guarded by an unbroken ring of steel. The semi-military government of General Simovich has the internal situation well in hand and reportedly has reached a workable arrangement with the Croats and Slovenes. While there is still uneasiness in those exposed northern provinces, they would presumably rally around the throne and the national government in case of a German attack. The only disloyal elements are a small minority of Croat separatists whose leaders are in exile, and the Magyar and German minorities, aggregating about 1,000,000 and found chiefly in the triangular belt of territory north of the Danube and abutting on Hungary and Rumania.

The mobilized Yugoslav Army is supposed to number 1,200,000. Fully half are Serbs, splendid fighting material and in a mood to battle as gloriously as their warlike ancestors. Mechanized equipment is admittedly scanty and the air force is weak, but the Greeks have shown what can be done in rough, mountainous country against mechanical handicaps probably more serious than those the Yugoslavs are likely to face. Furthermore, strong Anglo-Greek forces and much war material are massed on Yugoslavia's southern border, ready to be rushed up the Vardar Valley at a moment's notice. The presence of Anthony Eden and Sir John Dill at Athens are sufficient evidence that Britain is prepared to help the Yugoslavs in a big way. The smashing of the Italian Navy has simplified the British transport problem to the Balkans, while the impending collapse of Italian East Africa ahead of the rainy season should liberate large forces of seasoned British troops in the near future for use in the Balkan area.

Should war come, it will evidently have to be fought on the axis side almost wholly by the Germans. Italian morale is so low that a joint Greek-Yugoslav offensive would probably doom the Italian armies in Albania to swift disaster, while little could be ex-

pected of an Italian offensive launched from Trieste over the mountains into Slovenia. Likewise, Germany's lesser allies would be far from trustworthy. On paper, the Reich could count on 1,000,000 Rumanians, 800,000 Magyars and perhaps 400,000 Bulgarians. But the Rumanians are poor fighters at best, and the example of Italy shows that soldiers cannot be made to fight when their hearts are not in their work. Certainly, Rumania has nothing to gain from entering this struggle. Hungary and Bulgaria do have old scores against Yugoslavia, and both have coveted territories to gain from the downfall of that state. Yet in neither country does there seem to be genuine enthusiasm for a war waged as German satellites and chiefly for German profit.

Germany is thus confronted with prospects of a major war entered into under very dubious diplomatic and military conditions. This is undoubtedly the reason why the Reich has negotiated so long. Such forbearance is probably due to the need of reinforcing its armies and disposing them for attack. There is little reason to believe that Germany still hopes to effect a settlement without recourse to arms. The recall of most of its legation staff and of other nationals indicates that Hitler has decided to abandon the field of diplomacy.

The Balkan sands are running low, and the present situation is certainly untenable. Unless a diplomatic turn for the better occurs very soon, war will be the only alternative.

(Editorial)

Washington Evening Star, April 3, 1941.

### DR. MATCHEK PICKS HARD WAY

BY R. H. MARKHAM

*Balkan Correspondent of The Christian Science Monitor who is now in the United States*

Dr. Vlatko Matchek, leader of the Croatians, has made his choice. He has left the cross roads and moved forward along the hard way. Dr. Vlatko Matchek has gone to Belgrade and joined Croatia's lot with that of Serbia. He has reconsecrated Croatia to South Slav freedom.

A simple man has seen momentous things in a simple way. He has faced tremendous issues, that seemed inextricably confused, and decided them in a simple manner. He had a thousand good reasons for not going with Serbia and one reason why he should go—the hope of eventual freedom. He took his stand with freedom. He did what he thought was right.

Vlatko Matchek's first name is really Vladimir. It is written Vladimir on his birth certificate. It is written Vladimir on the diploma that admitted him to the bar. But on the sign before his office it is not Vladimir; it is Vlatko. That is as Dick instead of Richard; Bill instead of William. Croatia knows him only as Vlatko.

At first sight, that might seem an effort to win crude peasants' votes, by letting them call him Bill and pat him on the back. However, few men in the world are less demagogic than Vlatko Matchek. He has no glamor. He is a commonplace orator and far from a brilliant writer. His speeches are short, his infrequent articles still shorter. He has no tricks. But he is clear-sighted with the clarity of simplicity.

Though he has a little office in a modest house in beautiful Zagreb, the chief city of Croatia, he spends as much time as possible on his small place about 20 miles from town. He is a dirt farmer and when in the country works on the soil. His country house is anything but a resort. It is a dwelling for people who milk cows, harness horses and follow plows. This writer has more than once gone out to the farm to see the Croatian chief, and on such occasions he has been invited to take lunch with the farmer, who leads a nation of more than 4,000,000 peasants. The principal farm hand and Dr. Matchek's bodyguard might make the company four.

We would gather round one end of a large, rough, wooden table and with considerable ardor eat stew, vegetable salad and dark bread, finishing off with grapes or apples.

In his office, he appears much as on the farm. This writer has seen him there perhaps two dozen times. He almost always found the "President of Croatia" informally dressed. His shirt was open at the neck; his suit quite crumpled. After exchanging greetings, the Croatian chief and the correspondent usually sat down by a little table, on two worn, upholstered chairs, for a visit. The questions were brief, the answers plain, the conversations short.

#### *Carefully Guarded*

Dr. Matchek was usually watched by his own private guards and the reader may wonder why. The Croatian leader has almost always been a warrior. He has championed a subjugated or subordinated nation. Prior to 1918 he struggled against the Hapsburgs and the Hungarians. After 1918 and the establishment of Yugoslavia, he struggled against the heavy hegemony of the Serbs. It has been a very bitter conflict, accompanied by much violence. Dr. Matchek's former chief, Stephan Raditch, revered by the Croatians as Abraham Lincoln is by Americans, was shot in the Belgrade Parliament. Not fewer than a dozen of Dr. Matchek's closest colleagues have been assassinated. Dr. Matchek himself has more than once been in prison and has often been in grave danger. He has very vivid recollections of Serbian repression.

Because of his untarnished fidelity, his nation has followed him with almost unanimity and devotion. On more than one national holiday, this correspondent has seen long processions of peasants, afoot and on horseback, with banners and Croatian flags, march past Dr. Matchek's drab, grey house, shouting, "Long live Croatia! Long live Freedom! Long live Dr. Matchek!"

On more than one election day, this correspondent has seen Croatian peasants in Sunday clothes and with flags held high march to polling places, behind their own bands, to cast their votes almost unanimously for Dr. Matchek and Croatia. They were all in the opposition at such times; they were voting against the Serbs in the Belgrade government and risking grave reprisals.

Two years ago reconciliation came, the Croatians partially won their fight and acquired a large degree of equality. Dr. Matchek and his companions entered the Cabinet; Yugoslavia moved toward harmony. Then came the present dire crisis.

#### *Staking All on Democracy*

Dr. Matchek saw Croatia's sad lack of defense. He knew, too, that there are furious Croatian Nazis in his own Zagreb, who would give every aid to an invading enemy and who might soon be appointed by Herr Hitler to rule as dictators over Croatia, utterly destroying Dr. Matchek's Peasant Party.

Besides, he plainly heard the voices of many earnest Croatian peace lovers. The Croatians are among the most idealistic of all the Slavs. They have a broad, deep faith in goodness and right. Some have a feeling that by songs, good words, patience, long suffering and faith they will bring to light brotherhood.

Dr. Matchek, facing all these problems, knew he could momentarily free himself and his people from threatening horror by making an agreement with Herr Hitler. On that condition the Nazi juggernaut would have passed Croatia by. But instead of that, he joined his south Slav brothers, who had thrown him into prison, he pledged the supreme sacrifice of his nation in defense of Yugoslavia, he went to Belgrade. He would not accept respite, coming with a foreign tyrant's yoke.

As Leonidas took his stand at Thermopylae, as William of Orange defied Spanish inquisitors, Dr. Vlatko Matchek stood before all the coming ages, and assumed the risk of staking his Croatia's future on the belief that democracy will win this war.

The Christian Science Monitor, April 4, 1941

#### **SLAV DEFIANCE JOLTS HITLER; DUCE GETS ACUTE JITTERS AT THOUGHT OF NEW FRONT**

BY CARROLL BINDER

(Foreign Editor)

The "war of nerves," which Hitler assumed would enable him to win in the Balkans as it had contributed to German victories in so many other parts of Europe, has proved a failure in that hard-bitten peninsula.

Instead of supinely yielding to Axis might without the firing of a shot, Yugoslavia and Greece are coolly defiant. Worse, from the Axis standpoint, the confident mood of Yugoslavia and Greece has given an acute case of jitters to Italy. The once domineering and boastful Fascist regime has been humbly supplicating Yugoslavia to come to terms—any terms that will spare exposed Italian cities from bombardment by British planes operating from near-by Yugoslav bases and the badly exposed and demoralized Italian army of 300,000 in Albania from being driven into the sea by a combined Yugoslav-Greek-British offensive.

Italy is already so badly hurt by its disastrous defeats in Albania, Africa and at sea that the thought of fresh assaults by land, air and sea from right across the Adriatic is more than the already badly frayed Italian nerves can stand. Hence it has been unable to contribute anything to Hitler's campaign to shatter the nerves of the Yugoslavs and Greeks and is itself badly in need of more potent nerve tonic than Hitler's agents in Italy are able to administer. Something more than the successful drive against Bengasi by the German mechanized forces in Africa is necessary to revive Italian morale from the terrific series of shocks experienced on so many sectors of the war.

### *All Up to the Germans*

What the Axis does in the Balkans, therefore, must be done solely by the Germans.

It is always difficult to determine at what point Hitler's actions cease to be feints designed to confuse and paralyze his intended victims and become harbingers of large-scale military action. The ostentatious withdrawal of German nationals, including correspondents and diplomats, the loud talk of troop movements and impending blitzkrieg may prove on this, as on previous occasions, to be only another attempt to break the resistance of the victim—this time Yugoslavia.

But it is clear that Yugoslav nerves are not in the least upset by all of Hitler's sound and fury. Hitler is furious at thus being balked and seriously disturbed by the prospect that the valuable mineral and agricultural resources of that area as well as its invaluable strategic positions may accrue to Britain instead of to Germany, as had been taken for granted from the beginning.

That is why many competent observers believe that, despite German dislike of a second front, the war in the Balkans soon may pass from the diplomatic and intrigue stage to one of intensive military operations. The terrain, the lines of supply, the preliminary disposition of troops and other factors are not such as the German generals would choose. They are such as to send cold shivers down the spines of the Italian chieftains, who never reckoned on such possibilities when they entered the war last June 10.

### *Hitler May Have to Act*

But Hitler cannot bear to be crossed and Germany cannot afford to see the British position on the continent grow stronger week by week as is now the case in Greece and Yugoslavia. So, much as it interferes with Hitler's plans for the subjugation of Britain before American aid reaches devastating proportions, an attempt to drive the British and their allies out of Europe seem to be forced on Hitler.

The acute realization of what such a Balkan campaign would mean to Hungary doubtless was one of the primary factors in the suicide Thursday of Prime Minister Teleki. The Hungarian statesman had done all in his power to preserve his country from the dire aspects of participation in the war on the Axis side by a long series of minor concessions. He could not endure the prospect of converting Hungary into a major base of German operations against Yugoslavia and ended his life with a bullet.

The Germans were forced to admit the collapse this week of another of their cherished hopes. When the freedom-loving and war-like Serbs refused to permit Prince Paul and his gypsy henchman to deliver Yugoslavia to the Axis the Nazis sought desperately to win over the Croats, who have never been satisfied with their role in Yugoslav affairs. The Nazis sought to intimidate the Croats by portraying the horrors of war in their exposed and mostly indefensible territory and to exploit Croat grievances.

The Croats, however, proved too familiar with totalitarian methods to succumb to the Nazi intrigues. The veteran Croat leader, Matchek, assumed the vice-premiership in the Simovic government, other Croats were given important positions in the government and the army and the nation presented a united front to the Germans.

The information given Hitler by his minister, Von Heeren, as to Yugoslavia's vulnerability, proved to be as bad as that given Mussolini by his minister to Greece. The thousands of Nazi agents operating in Yugoslavia proved unable to disrupt and deliver the country as had been done in Rumania, Bulgaria and elsewhere.

### *Nazi Wrath Aimed at U. S.*

The frustrated and angry Nazis paid tribute to the United States in this connection. They denounced America's part in stiffening Yugoslav resistance. An immense number of telegrams had been sent to Croatian leaders by Croats residing in the United States urging them not to yield to Nazi intrigues. The increasing support for the British and allied cause by the United States also helped to stiffen Yugoslav resistance to Nazi pressure.

Yugoslavia's stand, in turn, increased Turkish resistance to Nazi intrigues. The Turkish press and radio took a more pronounced pro-British and anti-German tone. Inasmuch as Great Britain apparently does not have sufficient equipment at present to provide the Turkish Army with weapons for large-scale offensive operations, there seems to be little attempt by Britain to induce Turkey to wage active war just now. Meanwhile it is useful to Britain to have Turkey safely out of German influence.

Russia's attitude on the Balkan situation was not clarified during the week beyond publication of friendly articles about Yugoslavia in the government-controlled Soviet press. The new Yugoslav government was in communication with Moscow, however, and it is assumed that relations are bound to be better than they could be while the anti-Soviet Prince Paul directed Yugoslavian policy.

### *Slavs Get New Picture*

The new orientation in Yugoslavia was emphasized by the changed tone of the newspapers. The new editors ceased giving their readers a Nazi view of the world by dropping German news dispatches and publishing instead dispatches from the British Reuters agency.

If the Axis goes to war with Yugoslavia Italy will suffer severe economic as well as military blows. Italy naturally would be unable to obtain further shipments of the livestock, poultry, cereals, copper and lumber, which it has been getting from Yugoslavia and which it needs so badly. Its acute shortage of oil would be aggravated by the increased difficulty of getting supplies from Rumania over a lengthened route cluttered by heavy German military demands.

Desperate as is the plight of Italy at home, the plight of the Italians trapped in Ethiopia is indescribably more acute. It would be hard for the British to shield the civilian and uniformed victims of Mussolini's deflated dream of an empire in Ethiopia from the vengeful and primitively cruel Ethiopian natives of Mussolini and his ambitious viceroy the Duke of Aosta, unless they had been willing to overcome their chagrin and ask for British assistance in saving Italians from their recent victims. But Mussolini and Aosta apparently are too proud to make such a move so that as things stand a good many Italians in Ethiopia face ghastly fates—something that may make the tortures of Adowa 50 years ago small by comparison.

### *Shocks to Matsuoka*

The ill-fortune that has dogged Japanese Foreign Minister Matsuoka's visit to the Axis from the day of his arrival in Berlin continued this week. He was in Rome when news of the appalling Italian naval defeat at Matapan went round the world. The realization that Italy had ceased to count as a naval power and that Britain presently may be able to divert some ships from the Mediterranean to Singapore or other important empire outposts, coming on top of news of the Axis failure to conquer Yugoslavia, must have prompted Matsuoka to spurn Axis pressure to force Japan to start naval operations against Singapore or the Dutch Indies.

Matsuoka loudly affirmed Japan's loyalty to the Axis in press interviews but it is extremely doubtful that he made any commitments to help the Axis by fighting Britain or America in the immediate future. His visit is likely to have delayed rather than hastened Japan's active participation in the war.

The Japanese newspaper *Nichi Nichi* quotes Matsuoka as having said that he thought the national strength of Japan to be 100 before he set out on his trip. "I now realize Japan's strength in relation to foreign nations to be 150 to 200," Mr. Matsuoka told his people.

Since the Japanese foreign minister has seen only the strength of Germany and Italy and had a glimpse of Russia on his trip, he obviously could not have been talking about the strength of Great Britain and the United States when he made his statement.

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### THE WEEK IN FOCUS

#### **Yugoslavs United to Resist; Nazis Mass for Land Attack.**

BY ROBERT K. SHELLABY

*Staff Writer of The Christian Science Monitor*

Free peoples, in behalf of freedom the world over, this week struck major blows in American harbors, in the Eastern Mediterranean, in Africa wilds, in the Battles of Britain and the Atlantic, in diplomatic circles, and even in American factories, where work disputes threaten production in democracy's chief arsenal.

The Washington Government, almost at a wartime tempo, seized 69 Axis and Axis-controlled ships menacing navigation, over-ruled official protests from Berlin and Rome, requested recall of an Italian naval attaché on charges of encouraging sabotage, and counteracted legal actions against crew members and against other foreign agents.

Yugoslavia increased its resistance to Nazi domination by uniting Serbs, Slovenes, and Croats under the Boy King. Open resistance loomed as a next step, after receding to a neutral position despite the overthrown government's commitment to Axis membership.

Britain, exultant over its greatest sea victory of the war, against the Italian Fleet in the Ionian Sea, girded itself against intensification of the Nazis' submarine and air attacks.

Italy's internal crumbling, as reported by The Christian Science Monitor's Rome Correspondent, who is now in the United States, matches the external crump-

ling, whose latest evidences are the final defeat of its fleet, and the impending loss of its entire East African Empire.

China's generalissimo, Chiang Kai-shek, after taking strong stands for internal order against Communist demands, averred that the military crisis with Japan had passed, inferring that the defense is victorious if present trends continue.

While Japan's Foreign Minister continued his disillusioning talks in Axis capitals, the future of the peace in the Far East was discussed in Manila by British, American, and Philippine leaders.

Germany, so far withholding military answers to recent challenges to Axis might, protested to the United States regarding the ship seizures, and to Yugoslavia, warning the latter that "normal" relations depended upon complete repudiation of Britain and the United States. London's espionage reported a possible German attack on the Russian Ukraine, to gain supplies as well as to restore prestige.

Christian Science Monitor, April 5, 1941.

### "THE EAGLE'S NEST"

Yugoslavia is a political federation rather than a nation in the accurate meaning of the word. The "convenient" union of Serbia and Montenegro with certain portions of the Austro-Hungarian empire following the first World War was arranged by the victors of that struggle on an ethnic principle which, unfortunately, had to be compromised. It was desired to bring together all the South Slavs in the Balkan area. To the end so declared, the "provinces" of Slovenia, Croatia, Voivodina, Bosnia, Hercegovina, Dalmatia and Macedonia were merged with the two kingdoms whose capitals were Belgrade and Cetinje. The result, in the judgment of impartial observers, is "one of the most heterogeneous \* \* \* states of Europe."

But it does not follow that the different minorities are lacking in the instinct which, when expressed, produces an active loyalty to a national ideal. The necessary centripetal force required for the maintenance of the integrity of the composite realm is manifest in the determination of each of the different groups to be independent of alien control. King Alexander was assassinated by a representative of a "suppressed" community, yet his son, the youthful King Peter II, seems to be regarded with affection by all classes of his subjects. Doubtless increased pressure from without has the effect of creating sturdier solidarity within. It certainly cannot be denied that the spiritual and psychological elements of patriotism exist in Yugoslavia in a flourishing condition at present.

American visitors to "The Eagle's Nest" have returned home with memories which they invariably regard as precious. It is a beautiful land. Nature has endowed it with mountains and valleys, lakes and rivers, trees and flowers which appeal to the stranger as dramatic realities, notably impressive in their influence upon sensitive minds and hearts. For example, it happens frequently that the tourist enters a railroad tunnel in one striking scene and emerges in another, equally breath-taking but utterly different. The contrasts between Belgrade and Sarajevo are as compelling as those between Washington and Cal-

cutta. Both cities, however, are memorably gratifying to the responsive visitor.

No one, of course, can say when Yugoslavia first became dear to human inhabitants. Near Ljubljana geologists and archeologists have traced a prehistoric lake and discovered many dwellings like those of Lakes Constance and Geneva in Switzerland. The Bronze Age cultures of remote antiquity are represented in the museums of the larger towns, and occasionally even now a farmer or a shepherd finds in the field the iron blade of an ancient knife, a fragment of a brass helmet, a copper button or some still more remarkable clue to the mystery of the origins of civilization in the hills above the Adriatic.

An agrarian society predominantly is that of Yugoslavia today. But it should be added that its farms are "mid crags" because "vain on the plain is freedom's quest." The nest of the eagle may be invaded, but, considering the passionate devotion of Serbs, Slovenes, Croats and their neighbors to their homes, it safely may be prophesied that it will be defended desperately.

(EDITORIAL)

Washington Evening Star April 5, 1941.

## AXIS-GIRT YUGOSLAVS FACE HUGE COMMON FOE

*Written for The Christian Science Monitor*

The Yugoslavs, in defying the Nazis, are as a shepherd boy facing a Goliath. They are 16,000,000 in number and most are peasants; they are surrounded by 140,000,000 German, Italian, Hungarian and Bulgarian foes.

Most advanced in culture of the three Slav groups are the million Slovenes, situated in the extreme north-west corner of the state. They live on Alpine slopes and in Alpine valleys, tend little fields, mine coal, cut timber and work in factories.

Their chief center, Ljubljana, with 80,000 inhabitants, is a beautiful miniature of Central Europe. It straddles a little mountain river, looks up to a splendid castle on a dominating height, contains one magnificent park and many smaller ones, has an imposing university, an opera, a theater, excellent hotels and even a number of new skyscrapers.

*Former Hapsburg Subjects*

The people are all literate, industrious, frugal and extremely patriotic. However, they are not very warlike. Their chief statue is to a poet. Another striking statue is to Napoleon, who gave Slovenia a brief period of partial liberation from the Hapsburgs. During practically the whole of their history, up to December, 1918, the Slovenes were under German domination.

The Croatians, the second largest of the three South Slav groups, boast of a millennial culture, but during most of that thousand years they have been under foreign domination.

They are people both of plains and mountains. The farmers are rather sedentary and easy going; the mountaineers, extremely dynamic. The Croatians are excellent sailors, agriculturists, woodmen, artisans and merchants. They are distinguished as artists, writers and musicians. Their sculptor, Ivan Mestrovitch, is one of the best in the world.

Their chief center, Zagreb, is a very beautiful city of 200,000 inhabitants. It contains an old "upper city" with cathedral, stately square and quaint tangled streets; it also contains new quarters on every side, filled with very well built, new residences and business houses.

The Croatians, between four and five million in number, are mixed with Germans and Hungarians in the north, with Serbs in the east and south. Foreign masters shifted them about as they wished. Some Croatians were under the Austrians, others under the Hungarians and still others under the Turkish Sultans. Several hundred thousand of them are Moslems. They all speak the same language and have a strong feeling for Croatian unity.

The Serbs comprise the largest South Slav group. They center about the capital, Belgrade, a splendid new city with 300,000 inhabitants. They are the boldest of all the Balkan peoples. For centuries they were held in subjugation by Turkish Sultans and Hapsburg Emperors. Their whole modern history is a struggle for liberty and unity. They have sacrificed so much to win it, that they refuse to give it up without a supreme effort to preserve it.

April 7, 1941.

## YUOSLAVS ARRESTED PROMINENT GERMANS

*By the Associated Press*

New York, April 7—A German radio announcement heard today by NBC said all prominent Germans in Yugoslavia were arrested by Yugoslav officials shortly before dawn Sunday.

## FALL OF BELGRADE EXPECTED

**Rather Than Cause for Alarm, It Will Show Yugoslavs Aren't Making Tactical Error.**

BY COL. FREDERICK PALMER

The fall of Belgrade is to be expected along with the German occupation of Northern Yugoslavia. But hard as that will be on the people of the region over-run, it is an initial success which is far from a cause for alarm. On the contrary it will be proof that the Yugoslav Army is not making the tactical error which has been feared.

If it should try a stubborn last-ditch defense in Northern Yugoslavia it would be a wasted sacrifice for the people's own sake. They might be permanently delivered into Adolf Hitler's hands. Their only hope for eventual deliverance and the security of their independence is in a military victory which can be won only to the southward in the mountain country which must now appear as God's own gift to them.

Never has the Duke of Wellington's saying about the importance of an army knowing how to retreat had a more apt application than in Yugoslavia today.

Retreat calls not only for skill in the tactical handling and cohesion of troops, but that the people in the area where the army is falling back, shall not turn refugees in panic to impede the army in its rearguard action to protect an orderly withdrawal.

### *Easier Than in France*

This should be easier than in Northern France and in densely populous Belgium, where the people were taken utterly by surprise by the onslaught of tanks and bombs and machine-gun fire by diving planes.

Yugoslavia, especially the mountainous part, is comparatively thinly populated, an agricultural country of villages.

The Yugoslavs have known what was coming since Prince Paul was thrown out of power. There has been time to warn them what was expected of them. They are not readily excitable. They have been used to "taking it" and biding their time in other wars. The peasants, particularly, are inherently tough-minded and phlegmatic with a natural tactical cunning as fighters.

While there is little news of any decisive trend at this writing it is revealed, however, that the Germans are "softening" Belgrade by the usual preliminary method to facilitate occupation, and they are across the frontier and advancing from the Rumanian and Bulgarian borders over the level country of Northern Yugoslavia. Although they make rapid progress and can propagandically glorify their success in raising the swastika flag over Belgrade, this amounts only to a movement for position for the real struggle to come.

### *On the Struma River*

There is also a report of stiff fighting in the valley of the River Struma, which seems most likely. The Germans must get that valley or as much of it as they can in their primary rush—which is one bit of evidence that this time the Germans could not choose their hour to strike. Action was compelled before the German war machine, which is accustomed to thorough methodical preparation in the gathering of its forces, was ready to put its full weight behind its blows.

Hitler's proclamation further bears out this conclusion. It is notably labored and prolix in contrast with his summons to his troops in the attack on the western front, in which he said they were to settle the future of Germany for a thousand years. Greek King George's "With the help of God we shall win" carries more conviction.

It was as though Hitler had to reassure his people by trumpeting all his familiar forms of incitation to prepare them for an ordeal which they had not anticipated. Instead of sounding a few-worded battlecry, he had to remind them in a vast number of words of what they were fighting for.

### *Psychology of the Leader*

The psychology which emanates from a leader counts for much at the outset of a great battle. Hitler's appeal carries the note of irritation of the spoiled child of fortune who has had all doors open to his magic touch. But that of Yugoslavia did not open to him.

When it was conceived in German staff plans that the usual technique of infiltrations should provide a take-off for the attack down the valley of the River Vardar, with the other jaw of the pincers the valley of the Struma for taking Salonika, the Yugoslavs chose war instead of consent.

It looks as though Gen. Wilhelm List's hand were forced. He had to hasten to plug openings lest the

Allies should be ahead of him and to guard against the Allies getting the jump by closing in on Albania.

The German war machine now has to fight not up just one hill, as it did at Verdun in 1916, but up mountain after mountain and through narrow defiles. The German staff has learned great respect for the hunches of their Fuehrer, who signs himself Commander-in-Chief in his proclamation. Hitherto his hunches have been right. Will this one be right, further to convince him that he is a greater military genius than Napoleon?

Washington Evening Star, April 7, 1941.

### **THIS CHANGING WORLD**

#### **Yugoslavs Held Able to Stand Off Nazis for at Least Four Months, Perhaps Indefinitely.**

BY CONSTANTINE BROWN

There were beaming faces at the Yugoslav Legation when hundreds of telegrams and phone calls from all over the United States poured in assuring Yugoslavia's representative here, Constantin Fotich, of the sincere wishes of the American people for the success of Yugoslavia's armies.

Fotich, who fought in the last war as a cavalry officer in the Serbian Army throughout the strenuous campaign which ended with the evacuation of Serbia, accepted these wishes with pleasure. "Yugoslavia will need them," he said, "because we are up against a much tougher proposition now than at that time and we shall certainly have to take it on the chin."

The spirit of his country was illustrated by the attitude of the entire personnel of the Legation, from the Minister to Yovan, the Serbian usher. They all realize what a terrific struggle their armies will have to put up, they also realize that the richest and most fertile sections of the country will have to be sacrificed to the Germans and their allies. But they are full of confidence that these sacrifices will not be useless and that in the end Yugoslavia will emerge as a bigger and better country.

### *Hopes Pinned on U. S. Aid*

Meanwhile, King Peter's cabinet is pinning its hopes on the assistance the United States has promised. President Roosevelt has assured the Belgrade government that everything that valiant nation may need will be given her with as little delay as circumstances permit. Since the most productive section of Yugoslavia will be in the hands of the invaders shortly, large stocks of food and medical supplies will have to be rushed over, along with war materials of every description. The Yugoslav military equipment is generally out of date. The army can make good use of it for the time being, but the time will come soon when modern equipment will be needed. Inexhaustible supplies of small arms and ammunition must get there, too.

### *Defense of Yugoslavia*

As was expected there will be only a perfunctory defense of Yugoslavia in the early stages of the war. The bulk of the forces have already been withdrawn to the mountainous regions, where they will contact the Greek-British forces.



The German plan seems to be to drive a wedge between the Struma and the Vardar River, operating along the Kyustendil-Petric-Strumica region. A successful operation in that sector would give them the port of Salonika, and a complete control over North-eastern Greece and Eastern Yugoslavia. In the meantime a second German force, reinforced by the Bulgarians, is believed to be ready to operate along the Turkish-Bulgarian-Greek border, thus making impossible any liaison between Yugoslavia, Greece and their other prospective ally, the Turks.

It is believed Hitler will give his Rome subordinate a chance to retrieve the honor of Italy's arms by a cheap victory in Croatia. It is reported here that the Yugoslavs have ordered the "covering troops" withdrawn from that region.

#### *British Giving Assurances*

The British have given every assurance by words and deeds that no effort will be spared to make the new front hold. The number of British troops in Greece is still not definitely known, but does not exceed, according to the best available information, 100,000 men.

There are also British troops from the old Regular Army who have seen action in Flanders and are anxious to show that given the proper war materiel and allies they can be as good, if not better, than the Germans. Of course the British could bring in a larger number of troops, but for the time being this is not necessary. The front is too small to permit the deployment of very large forces and both the Greeks and the Yugoslavs can put at least 1,500,000 men in the field.

The main role of the British will have to be confined to keeping the defenders well provided with war materiel and supplies. Unless the Germans manage to enter the Mediterranean with a substantial number of submarines and bombers the lines of communication between England (or Egypt) and the Balkan Peninsula cannot be interfered with. After the Cape Matapan battle the Italian Navy will not dare put its nose out and the British transports will be plying in "mare Nostrum" with less danger than around the British Isles. The Germans lack sufficient submarines and bombers to blockade England and disrupt British communications in the Mediterranean.

Thus the Yugoslavs' prediction that under the most unfavorable circumstances they can hold the Germans for at least four months, while under favorable conditions they can hold out indefinitely, is no vain boast. There is little tendency on the part of the realistic Yugoslav military to boast. They do not entertain high hopes of "marching into Germany" by next fall.

Washington Evening Star, April 7, 1941.

### **YUGOSLAV STRENGTH**

#### **The Military Forces In Hitler's Way**

BY ANDRE VISSON

HITLER could not forgive the Yugoslavs for preferring the most cruel sacrifices to dishonor. He attacked them the same dawn he attacked the Greeks.

The Greeks are guilty of fighting for their honor and independence. The Yugoslavs' "crime" is still

greater. They dared to upset Hitler's plans. It is their fault that Hitler has today to fight a war on two fronts. It is their fault that all freedom-loving peoples in Europe and in the world are raising their heads today and asking themselves whether Yugoslavia's gallant resistance is not to become the turning point of this war.

All the fury of the Nazi military machine is consequently directed against the Yugoslavs, whom Hitler has threatened with the worst punishment yet taken by any European people. The Yugoslavs were, however, perfectly aware of it when they overthrew the regime responsible for the signing of the Vienna pact.

The principal credit for the Yugoslav revolt belongs to the Serbs, who remained faithful to their glorious past and their conceptions of national honor. The same tribute must be paid, however, to the Croats and the Slovenes. When the hour of decision struck, the Croats, as well as the Slovenes, proved to the world that Yugoslavia was not an artificial state, but a living entity. Croatian leaders know well that their people will be the most hard hit in a war which promises to be more cruel than last spring's blitzkrieg in Western Europe. They refused, however, to listen to the fallacious promises of Nazi agents. Dr. Vladimir Machek, the Croatian leader, proved that at the historic hour an honest and patriotic politician becomes quite naturally a statesman.

The political future of Yugoslavia is assured.

But what will be its immediate military fate?

The military value of the Serbian soldier is beyond any praise. Military experts—Germans included—are unanimous in considering him as one of the best fighters in Europe.

The Croatian regiments were once among the best in the Napoleonic army. And the Slovenes are particularly fit for mountain fighting.

In the World War Serbia and Montenegro, with 5,200,000 population, were able to supply as many as 800,000 fighters. Yugoslavia, with her 15,600,000 population, can theoretically, gather 2,250,000 men, provided the country is not overrun. Anyhow, 1,500,000 Yugoslav soldiers are reported to be already under colors.

But what is the technical value of the Yugoslav army?

The Yugoslav military forces are divided into five armies. The first and the fourth armies are disposed along the German, Hungarian and Rumanian borders. The second army, whose seat is in Sarajevo, assures the defense of Bosnia and of the Adriatic coast. The third army, located between Greece and Albania, may cooperate with the Greeks and help them to clean Albania of the Italians. The fourth army, whose seat is in Nieh, has to take the mightiest blow, from the Nazi forces coming out of Bulgaria.

Each of these armies was composed in peacetime of three infantry divisions, a regiment of heavy artillery, another regiment of light artillery and of various technical services.

An infantry division consists of three or four infantry regiments and two artillery regiments. An infantry regiment is composed of two or three battalions and of one detachment equipped with 37-millimeter guns. An infantry battalion numbers three or four sharpshooter detachments and one machine gun detachment with eight heavy machine guns and two 37-millimeter guns.



The Yugoslav infantry totals 58 regiments, of which 56 are first line, the two others being a royal guard regiment and a fortress regiment.

Their armament is pretty diverse. It consists of Mauser, Mannlicher, Lebel and Czech automatic rifles. Hand grenades are of French and Yugoslav make. The light machine guns are Czech and Schwarzlose. The heavy machine guns are Schwarzlose, Saint-Etienne, Hotchkiss, Bergmann and Maxim. The infantry guns are French or Czech (Skoda).

The Yugoslav artillery numbers 32 first line regiments, 5 regiments of heavy artillery, 3 groups of especially heavy artillery and 2 groups of cavalry artillery, 1 regiment of so-called fortress artillery, 2 independent mountain brigades and 3 antiaircraft regiments.

An artillery regiment consists of 2 groups, of 3 batteries each, and each group is equipped with 75-millimeter mountain guns and 100-millimeter howitzers. The Yugoslav artillery is specially equipped for mountain fighting.

The armament of heavy artillery regiments is motorized. It consists of 105, 120 and 150 millimeter guns and of 105, 120, 150 and 155 millimeter howitzers. Guns and howitzers are generally of French and Czech make.

A heavy artillery group, equally motorized, possesses 150 and 155-millimeter guns and 220 and 305-millimeter mortars.

Antiaircraft regiments have 2 groups of 2 or 3 batteries each, equipped with 66 and 76 millimeter Skoda or 75 Vickers guns. Each regiment has, moreover, a searchlight detachment and an antiaircraft machine gun company.

For the war operations the Yugoslav staff general had foreseen as far as it is known the following formation.

The operating unit is formed by an infantry division. The division has a staff, an infantry command, three or four infantry regiments, one or two artillery regiments, one or two cavalry squads, one pioneer battalion, one chemical detachment, one liaison detachment, one Red Cross detachment and rear services.

The greater operating unit will be the army. It will consist of a staff, of two or three divisions, of some mixed or mountain-special detachments, of one heavy artillery regiment, one antiair defense squad, one searchlight detachment, one cavalry regiment or one brigade and various rear services.

A cavalry division is formed by two or three brigades, one artillery squad, one cyclist battalion and a reconnaissance squad.

The Yugoslav general staff had also foreseen the formation of independent cavalry units. The military experts estimate the Yugoslav army operating today against the Germans to number 25 to 30 divisions, two cavalry divisions and several independent cavalry brigades. To these first line forces must be added the nine gendarme regiments.

Altogether, of the 1,500,000 Yugoslavs already called to colors, about 1,000,000 must be in the first lines. And in case of Yugoslavia's successful resistance their number could be later increased by another half million men, from 40 to 50 years old.

The Yugoslav forces are supported by an aviation arm believed to have 42 squadrons numbering 830 planes and nine hydroplane squadrons of 120 units. The planes are French, German, English, Czech,

Polish and Yugoslav. Only half of them, however, can be considered as first line planes.

The Yugoslav pilots are well trained and possess the magnificent fighting spirit of their people, but the lack of modern planes and of modern antiair defense is Yugoslavia's greatest handicap in the courageous fight against Hitler's aggression.

The Yugoslav army is well prepared for a hard fight on the rough mountain terrain in Southern Serbia. Yugoslavia's problem is, however, to get enough British armament—and in time—in order to be able to hold through these terrible months till the Yugoslav people, fighting for their freedom and for that of all other nations, receive the necessary assistance from Democracy's Arsenal.

Washington Post, April 7, 1941.

## THE WAR SPREADS

### Hitler's Assault On Yugoslavia

BY BARNET NOVER

The military offensive which Germany has launched against Yugoslavia and Greece is the product of a diplomatic defeat, indeed, the most serious diplomatic defeat suffered by Hitler since he came into power eight years ago. The present German campaign in the Balkans is, therefore, primarily a salvage operation. Hitler has this time found it necessary to use force in a situation in which he confidently expected to achieve his ends through the mere threat of force alone, namely, to persuade Greece and Yugoslavia to submit to the "new order."

German policy in the Balkans has had a three-fold aim. In the first place, it has sought to preserve that region as the breadbasket and raw material reservoir of the Third Reich. The oil of Rumania, the wheat of Bulgaria, the hogs, bauxite, copper and lead of Yugoslavia have helped Germany supplement her own inadequate resources and have replaced supplies which, because of the British blockade, she has been unable to bring in from overseas.

Secondly, in view of the paramount necessity of sooner or later launching an all-out attack on Great Britain, Germany has sought to prevent the British from establishing a foothold in the Balkans and from there launching an attack on Germany's rear.

Thirdly, as Italy's multiple weaknesses have been exposed and the difficulties of invading England have increased as British strength has increased, Hitler has hoped to use the Balkans as a base from which to launch an attack on British communications in the eastern Mediterranean.

THE SECOND and third of these objectives can obviously be achieved by military action, but only to Germany's economic detriment.

If Yugoslavia and Greece are conquered, Germany will have bolted and barred her back door and also achieved a foothold on the Aegean. From that point the Nazi air force would be in a position to bomb the Suez Canal and British naval concentrations in Alexandria and elsewhere. Hitler would then also be in a position to put real pressure on Turkey to permit the passage of German troops to the Near East.

But the achievement of these objectives would mean the ruination of the Balkans as a supply source. More-

over, any military venture in the Balkans might sooner or later compel such diversion of German air and military power as to make it impossible for the Reich to launch an all-out attack on Britain this year, the year in which, because of American industrial power and our all-out program to aid Britain, Hitler must win the war or be doomed to certain defeat

THAT IS WHY Hitler has for months waged a campaign to win the Balkans to the "new order" through diplomatic pressure alone. He succeeded in considerable measure in doing so. Hungary agreed to serve as a corridor to German troops, although poor Count Teleki discovered that this ultimately meant serving as a German military base as well. Rumania and Bulgaria allied themselves to the Axis.

The crowning achievement, though held up for some time by the dilatory tactics of the Cvetkovitch government, was the Yugoslav-German pact. With Turkey apparently intent on remaining behind her borders, only Greece was left and the liquidation of Greek resistance seemed easy after Belgrade's consent to the dispatch by Germany of sealed trains across Yugoslavia's borders.

The Yugoslav people upset these well-laid plans, however. They rose in rebellion against the Cvetkovitch government. They rallied behind a regime which was determined to resist any infringement of Yugoslavia's independence. Ten days after the coup d'etat at Belgrade Hitler struck. The very speed with which he acted to salvage the prestige he had lost by Yugoslavia's bold stand against the Axis shows how alarmed he was over the possible repercussions of his diplomatic defeat. He was certainly well aware of the fact that the example set by the Serbs might be imitated by the embittered populations of Bulgaria, Rumania and Hungary whose governments had betrayed them into servitude to Hitler. Nor could he ignore the likelihood that, as the Fascist empire crumbled, British troops in considerable numbers would soon be available for the Balkan theater. Indeed, on the very day the German forces struck out at Yugoslavia and Greece, British troops moved into Addis Ababa, marking the beginning of the end of Italy's war effort in East Africa.

GERMANY'S military might is not to be discounted. Yugoslavia has a large army made up of the toughest fighting men in all Europe. They can be expected to give an excellent account of themselves in the mountain region where they will make their principal stand. But they lack modern equipment and Germany has all of conquered Europe as well as her own vast industrial resources to draw on. The most that the Yugoslavs can be expected to do in the face of the onrushing Nazi juggernaut is to hold up its advance as much as possible.

If they can do that with any measure of success, however, they will have contributed mightily to Hitler's ultimate undoing. For Hitler cannot afford to be pushed into making a major effort in the Balkans as long as Britain is unconquered and in the face of the increasing range, volume and effectiveness of British bombing raids. That he has found it necessary to take the risk suggests both his confidence in the strength of the unbeaten Nazi forces and the des-

perate urgency of the situation created for the Reich by Yugoslavia's stand.

The British admit the presence of their forces in Greece. That circumstance plus the fact that the Italian armies in Albania are now surrounded has evil connotations for Mussolini. Hitler's first victim in the present Balkan conflict may be Italy.

Washington Post, April 7, 1941

## BLOW TO HITLER

### English Reaction To Yugoslavia

BY HAROLD J. LASKI

London.

IT IS NOT EASY to put into words the exhilarating effect on this country of the Yugoslav constitutional revolution. People spoke to one another in buses and cafes as though some great, happy incident had occurred in their own lives. When Mr. Churchill announced it at luncheon, one could see by his face how heavy a load had been lifted from his mind. A simple way of estimating the general feeling is to look at most of the current weeklies, written in the belief that Belgrade had been committed to the Axis. Their note is one of gloom and dismay. I gave my copy of the Spectator this morning to the bus conductor. He looked smilingly at its pessimistic headlines. "I bet Hitler is feeling like that this morning," he said.

It is clear that the Yugoslav decision is vital for many reasons. It is the first instance of a small people directly under the threat of Nazi invasion compelling its government to resist that menace. From that angle, it is under any circumstances a blow to the prestige of Hitler. Thereby it is shown that a courageous nation can conquer fear and hate, and the more power to overcome it bewilders a dictator who lives by his power to impose fear on those whom it seeks to destroy.

IT IS IMPORTANT, also, because it is a reverse, as sudden as unexpected, to the hopes Hitler had aroused among his own people. They have been shown that a nation which loves its freedom is prepared to fight for it. Secretely, no doubt, but none the less effectively, the lesson of this act will make itself felt among the thousands of Germans who hope one day for release from their present servitude.

The Yugoslavian decision is important, also, because it will have a stiffening effect everywhere. That is clear from its reception not only in Greece and Turkey; it is clear also from its impact on the Soviet government and even Vichy, France, where 10,000 Frenchmen demonstrated their enthusiasm for Yugoslavia in Marseille. A profound effect, too, followed the swift reaction by the United States. The sense of American power is widespread in the Balkans, where tens of thousands have relatives in that almost legendary land. The knowledge there that American aid will be forthcoming to a nation that has the courage to stand up for its independence will be discussed by millions and give hope where before there was little more than submission to an inexorable, relentless destiny.

Yugoslavia has lit the candle of hope in Eastern Europe; and its beams will be reflected widely before long.

We need not doubt that Hitler will take revenge for this act of insubordination; already the familiar accusations that Germans are being ill-treated are being blared out on the Goebbels radio. I think, myself, it is pretty certain that military intervention will be attempted by Berlin. Nazi power acts always on the assumption that it must bully the way to its end, and there is no quality for which it has more indignation than courage in an opponent from whom it expects submission. So I expect, before these words are in print, to hear that the Nazi machine is on the move.

ITS TASK will be less easy than it imagines. The Yugoslavs know how to fight; and at long last we are at least in a position to help them with munitions and in the air. And Hitler, seeking to punish the Yugoslavs for their failure to be devoured quickly, may easily overreach himself. Spreading the war in the Balkans may have consequences far beyond any he has imagined. Above all he has demonstrated to Matsuoka, in what was to be an hour of triumph, that his power to impose himself even on a weak opponent has important limits; I suspect that the telegraph wires between Berlin and Tokio have been hot ever since the coup. And I think that the very cautious observers in the Kremlin have noted with quiet satisfaction the appearance of a new and unexpected problem on Hitler's plate. Coinciding as it does with the ever-accelerating pace of Mussolini's African collapse and his inability to extricate himself from his Albanian difficulties, it may well lead to one of those reassessments of values in Moscow of which the ultimate significance could be profound indeed.

At this stage it is dangerous, I think, to expect too much. The full significance of the Yugoslav decision will hardly appear until the coming of autumn. But when the battle is won, as won it will be, the choice Yugoslavia made will seem in perspective as significant as the Spanish campaign in the Napoleonic wars. It means a revival of national feeling in an area where its strength and persistence are profound. That revival in a war of this character is a turning point. For nationalism is an infectious thing. It communicates its intensity in ways and degrees that the Nazis in power do not dare underestimate. It is the Achilles heel of every conqueror who does not know—as the Nazis do not know—how to replace the processes of coercion by the processes of consent. I miss my guess if it does not make their problems in France twice as hard as before. For a nation in chains becomes ever more irritated with their weight when it sees a neighbor nation challenge its enemy. Yugoslavia will make innumerable Frenchmen far less anxious for collaboration with Hitler's "new order" than they were a week ago. Yugoslavia has sown seeds of doubt from Norway to the Dardanelles. One thing Hitler cannot afford to doubt; skepticism is the pestilence of dictatorships. When it takes hold, it is the beginning of the end.

NAPOLÉON thought at Tilsit that he stood at the apogee of his power; in fact, his decline had already begun. And that was true even though next

year he swept over Spain as next week Hitler may sweep over Yugoslavia. The idea of resistance was planted in men's minds; not even the genius of Napoleon could break that idea. The courage of the Yugoslav people, like that of the Greeks six months ago, fosters the idea of resistance. Military victories on Hitler's part cannot overcome that idea until he has defeated the final enemy—Britain. And the Britain he faces is stronger than at any time during the war.

We learned from the Battle of France that time is a neutral that serves those prepared to profit by its opportunities. That preparation is evident now in every aspect of the British effort. The spirit of the people has never been so high; the sense of high enterprise upon which they are engaged has never been so profound. The people believe in themselves; they have the unshakeable conviction of triumph that is the inner secret of victory. American aid, the triumphs in Africa, the heroic resistance of Greece, the new determination of Yugoslavia—those have given them the inner knowledge that has no need to feel concern at the outcome. It may be long, and it will certainly be hard, before victory finally comes. But what Yugoslavia has done is to underline with emphasis that high courage which always gives Britain the sense that its cause is not merely its own. It now realizes that with victory its moral credit will stand higher than at any time in its history. I heard a Roumanian diplomat say today in London to a Czech statesman that it must be a proud thing to be a Yugoslav. I confess to some emotion when I heard the Czech reply: "Almost as proud as to be an Englishman." We will seek to justify that eulogy.

April 7, 1941.

### "OH, TO BE IN ENGLAND!"

He did not choose the place:

He did not choose the time.

All the circumstances leading up to Reichfuhrer Hitler's attack on Yugoslavia and Greece indicate that his hand was forced.

But not in the sense that the Nazi Foreign Minister, Joachim von Ribbentrop, would have us believe: "England is about to commit another crime against Europe." Certainly Britain has encouraged the Yugoslavs to stand for their freedom. Britain has encouraged and helped the Greeks to stand for theirs. The position of the Nazis in the Balkans is due not to a British crime, however, but to an Italian one.

The story of this Balkan war begins a few hours before Herr Hitler and Premier Mussolini met at Florence, October 28, 1940. Il Duce had long been getting the short end of Axis profits. Without waiting to discuss his plan at the Florence conference, Mussolini handed Greece an ultimatum and then struck. This assertion of Fascist independence was not missed by the Nazis. They made it plain they did not sympathize with the Italian action and promised no more than diplomatic aid.

Berlin foresaw what a dangerous chapter of the war Il Duce's rashness might open up. The situation required handling with gloves. The Nazis handled Hungary, Rumania and Bulgaria with gloves. The Yugoslavs considered what was in the gloves. As soon as someone called the Nazi bluff, Berlin's at-

tempt to aid Italy by diplomatic means had to be translated into war, for by that time not only Italian but Nazi prestige had been involved.

Thus the forcing of the Nazis' hand can be credited to their Fascist collaborators. The crime, like the crime that brought on the entire war in 1939, was aggression by an Axis Power against a smaller State.

This upshot of rivalry within the Axis has brought into the open another and probably more important rivalry—that between the signers of the Nazi-Soviet nonaggression pact that cleared the way for the attack on Poland.

Russia and Yugoslavia have now entered into a pact of friendship, subject to ratification, which proclaims Russian opposition to the Nazi attack on Yugoslavia, and indicates an increasing activity on Russia's part to stall the Nazi machine in the Balkans. Naturally, Turkey has interpreted the Russian attitude as encouraging a stand against the Axis and has massed troops and issued statements whose purpose is to immobilize Bulgaria.

Meanwhile April, by all accounts an ideal month in which to be in England, is moving along. The British wait for Hitler. It is only a week or so since the Nazi radio was reported reviving the song, "We're Sailing for England." The British are not counting on his not coming, but if Herr Hitler doesn't show up, there will be no need this time to ask why.

The first stages of the Nazi war against Yugoslavia and Greece may favor the Nazi publicity machine. The northern part of Yugoslavia is flat, difficult to defend against the mechanized German divisions, and the Yugoslavs are probably prepared only to delay the German advance. They will make their stand farther south, south even of Belgrade. The key to Nazi strategy is thought by expert opinion to lie near the juncture of the Greek, Yugoslav and Bulgarian frontiers where an attempt doubtless will be made to drive a wedge between the Greeks and the Yugoslavs.

Britain announces it has placed considerable forces in Greece. The German move had been anticipated for weeks. This is to be no battle of Norway. Both sides have big supply problems; the Germans through mountain passes and river valleys only one of which, the Vardar, is really adaptable to German needs; Britain by the long sea route through the Mediterranean.

This is a battle in which the odds cannot yet be counted. For Britain the stakes are big, the risks likewise. The Allies begin with the heartening knowledge that Hitler did not choose the ground and that he has had to strike here when he would rather have been striking elsewhere. Moreover he cannot foresee what the end will be, nor indeed of what it will be the end.

(EDITORIAL)

The Christian Science Monitor, Monday, April 7, 1941.

### FAT IN THE FIRE

Once again Hitler's legions are on the march. Once again German bombing planes are raining death and destruction on the cities and villages and the innocent population of nations whose only crime is to be small and who prefer freedom to slavery. Last year at this time it was Denmark and Norway that were the victims of the German war machine. Now Yugoslavia

and Greece have been singled out for punishment for having flouted the will of the Fuehrer and made him suffer his greatest diplomatic defeat.

It would be foolish to underestimate the power and drive of the force which Hitler has assembled in Hungary, Rumania and Bulgaria for the offensive he has now launched. The German army is today as it was a year ago the most powerful military machine on the continent of Europe. It has a vast arsenal at its back. No doubt, too, a formidable German air force has been assembled in the new theater of war, for London has enjoyed 16 quiet nights in succession.

The advantages which Germany possesses in launching her assault on Yugoslavia and Greece are, however, very decidedly less than those she enjoyed in her attack on Denmark and Norway a year ago. Denmark allowed herself to be overrun. Norway fought back and fought back hard—indeed, the struggle against the Nazis has not been abandoned to this day. But the Norwegian army was small and insignificant in comparison with the German invading force. In Yugoslavia, however, the Nazis are faced by a force of 1,200,000 fighting men accounted among the best soldiers in Europe, while the Greeks have shown the superb stuff they are made of in their fight against Italy. Moreover, British sea power can play a part in the Balkan theater of war that it could not play in the Scandinavian area in April, 1940. The defeat of the Italian fleet eleven days ago has given the British unchallenged control of the Eastern Mediterranean. And, now that Addis Ababa has been taken, the final collapse of Italian resistance in East Africa is very near. That will enable Gen. Wavell to release for fighting in the Balkans a seasoned force hitherto occupied with the Ethiopian and Eritrean ventures. It will also enable him to stiffen the British lines in Libya, recently thinned out by the necessity of having to send contingents to Greece. In this connection, to be sure, German capture of Bengasi which the British previously had taken from the Italians may be regarded as a blow to the British. But it may prove to have no more long-range significance than did Marshal Graziani's capture of Sidi Barrani. Indeed, the presence in North Africa of a considerable German force can prove a liability rather than an asset for Hitler, since the maintenance of that force means a service of supply constantly subject to possible harassment from British sea power.

There is a further liability which Hitler must reckon with. Now that Yugoslavia is in the war, the Italian armies in Albania who have been holding their ground for some time will be caught in a vise. Menaced by the Greeks and British from the south, they will be threatened by the Yugoslavs from the north. That is why Mussolini tried desperately during the last days of German-Yugoslav peace to prevent the conflict which has now broken out. He realized that Italy may be the first casualty of the enlarged Balkan struggle. But Hitler ignored his pleas. The psychological urgency of the situation was such that the Fuehrer could not wait or take the plight of his ally into account. He had to strike and strike soon, regardless of risks, even at the cost of having all his carefully prepared plans upset, even at the expense of setting up what he has hitherto dreaded, namely, a Balkan front.

Now the fat is in the fire. If Germany wins, and the odds are very much in her favor, she will still

have the major task before her of beating the British. If the German forces are held up by the Yugoslavs, Greeks and British, with the passive encouragement of Russia, whose friendship for Yugoslavia was demonstrated in a pact signed on the eve of the German attack on Yugoslavia, and the material assistance which the United States should strain every nerve to rush to Hitler's latest victims, a blow of very serious dimensions will have been dealt to the new order. The tocsin sounded in Belgrade, moreover, will echo throughout the Balkans among peoples who have accepted Nazi chains only under duress.

(EDITORIAL)

Washington Post, April 7, 1941.

### AID TO YUGOSLAVIA

Justifiably forthright and severe was Secretary Hull's denunciation yesterday of the German invasion of Yugoslavia and Greece. And America's answer to what Mr. Hull properly characterized as a "barbaric" chapter in the totalitarian plan of world conquest will be given in terms of guns and planes and munitions and other supplies from our "arsenal of democracy." Mr. Hull pledged this material aid in a public statement issued on behalf of President Roosevelt. Actually, this was a reaffirmation of previous promises made to Yugoslavia through diplomatic channels during the critical hours which preceded the Balkan kingdom's final decision to reject the yoke of Nazi domination and fight, if need be, for her independence and her national honor.

Fortunately, the framework for a program of rendering aid to Yugoslavia now exists, thanks to the arrangements already made for extending assistance to Greece. Since the interests of the Yugoslavs and the Greeks parallel each other, with both peoples defending themselves against a common foe, it is necessary only to amplify the present aid-to-Greece plan into a broad program of prompt and effective help to allied British, Greek and Yugoslav forces in the new Balkan theater of war. If Turkey joins this allied trio, she logically may expect a full share of the supplies.

With the danger of an imminent invasion of England fading, due to the opening of a second war front for the Nazis in the East, it is likely that some of the materiel scheduled to go to England will be diverted to the Balkan front. The President disclosed recently that quantities of modernized French seventy-fives are destined for Greece. These consignments may be enlarged in view of the new developments. Yugoslavia has but about 500 combat planes to oppose a Nazi Balkan air fleet, several thousand strong. American warplanes have been sent to the British Middle East command by way of East African ports. Some of these may already have reached Greece. In addition to implements of war, America will send other supplies to the Balkan allies. The American Red Cross announced yesterday that hospital equipment and other medical facilities will be shipped to Yugoslavia from an Atlantic port.

As the Mediterranean Sea is still fraught with perils for merchant shipping, the Red Sea approach to the Suez Canal seems to be the most advantageous route of supply. The Red Sea coast has been swept virtually

clear of Italian forces, as a result of the collapse of Italian East Africa. A Neutrality Act proclamation still lists the Red Sea as a forbidden zone for American ships. This sea could be reached either by way of the South Atlantic, the Cape of Good Hope and the Indian Ocean, or by way of the Pacific and Indian Oceans. The water distances are about the same. There is a shortage of merchant ships with which to transport our supplies, but if reported negotiations for acquisition of the nearly two-score Danish ships now in our protective custody are successful, the immediate shipping crisis will be measurably relieved. Time is precious. The American people will expect their Government to take whatever steps are necessary to speed the aid which the President and his Secretary of State have promised the courageous Yugoslavs, Greeks and British.

(EDITORIAL)

Washington Evening Star, April 7, 1941

### BASIC BALKAN STRATEGY

Germany's Balkan blitzkrieg has started off at a fast clip, and these aggressive tactics are meeting with resolute opposition at all defensible points, especially on the Greco-Bulgarian border. Beyond this, we as yet know little, specific military movements being hidden behind veils of censorship. No war correspondents are allowed by either side near the actual fighting fronts.

In default of definite information, it may be useful to survey the general lay of the land, traced by nature itself, to which all strategic plans must conform.

The total battleground is extensive. From the northwest tip of Yugoslavia to the eastern border of Greek Thrace is a distance of nearly 800 miles. However, Yugoslavia's northern provinces of Croatia-Slovenia, together with the region across the Danube from Belgrade, can be quickly disregarded. Flat or gently rolling lands, the Yugoslavs cannot hope to hold them against the German war machine, which is here in its element. On that terrain the Yugoslavs can fight only delaying actions.

The decisive sectors of the Balkan battleground lie in its extreme south, where Yugoslavia narrows to a bottleneck between Bulgaria and Albania, at one point only eighty miles wide. Down the middle of this corridor to Greece and the Aegean Sea runs the Vardar River, with the port metropolis of Salonika near its mouth. The Vardar River Valley is fairly broad. It has been the historic gateway for Balkan invasions going north or south, and today has a good railroad and highway to facilitate troop movements. However, the Vardar Valley is lined by high mountains; so it is defensible to attacks from both east and west. From Bulgaria, the only strategic gap in the mountain wall is the Dragoman Pass, over which runs the railroad from the Yugoslav city of Nish to Sofia, the Bulgarian capital. The strategic heights which control this pass are in Yugoslav hands, so a German invasion from Bulgaria by this route will be difficult. The Italians seem to be in no position to make an offensive from Albania. Indeed, an offensive the other way already has begun, with the Yugoslavs seeking to crush the Italians there with Greek aid before German pressure from Bulgaria becomes too intense.

Unless the German war machine performs a seeming miracle, therefore, it looks as though the Yugoslavs were in no immediate danger of having their main fortress stormed and their communications with Greece cut. The most immediately dangerous point lies just to the eastward, along the Greco-Bulgarian frontier, and it is here that the Germans are hurling savage assaults, regardless of losses. This region, known as Greek Thrace, is shut off from Bulgaria to the northward by an almost unbroken mountain wall. Two rivers break through—the Struma and the Mesta. Both are rugged, twisting defiles, and their natural strength has been greatly enhanced by elaborate Greek fortifications, called the Metaxas Line. The main German attack is down the Struma, and a breakthrough here would bring the invaders close to Salonika. Once that city was in German hands, the Greek and British armies would be forced to retreat southward, and contact between them and the Yugoslavs would be cut, strategically speaking. Yugoslavia's main supply line with the outer world would be thereby severed, and it would be practically isolated. This danger point is therefore the one to watch. Unless and until it falls, a quick German triumph need not be anticipated.

(EDITORIAL)

Washington Evening Star, April 8, 1941.

### FRONTIER ON THE VARDAR

America's enthusiasm over Yugoslavia's gallant defiance of Nazi power is as warm and sympathetic as Big Brother's when Little Brother stands up to a bully. But if Little Brother gets mauled what will Big Brother do? Americans who read of Greeks bravely standing under the blitzing and the bombing of the Nazi war machine were stirred by righteous indignation and a strong impulse to lend a hand. But will they lend an effective hand? How crystallized is their feeling that this sort of thing has got to be stopped? How far are they willing to go?

This Government, with its policy of helping those who are defending themselves against would-be conquerors, is now proceeding as speedily as possible to send military and other supplies to Yugoslavia.

American hearts endorse Secretary Hull's promise of aid. Will American hands carry it out effectively?

As Your Majesty knows, it is the settled policy of the United States Government to extend aid to those governments and peoples who defend themselves against aggression. \*I assure Your Majesty that steps are being taken to extend such aid to Greece, which is defending itself so valiantly.

American hearts applauded the pledge of President Roosevelt to the King of Greece on December 7. Outside of Red Cross and other relief effort, how much have American hands done to make good?

There is very little evidence that American military supplies have reached Greece in any quantity. Supplies sent to Britain may have helped the British to transfer material and men to the Greek front. There is evidence that the promise contained in passage of the Lend-Lease Act encouraged if it did not induce the British to risk an army in Greece. American promises are also said to have aided the Yugoslav decision to resist.

Promises: And strikes! And other evidences of a general failure among Americans to see that great sacrifices, immediate sacrifices, are required if they are going to make good on promises which have had a part in spurring gallant little peoples to risk everything! And the Neutrality Act still is the law of the land! Acting under it, less than a month before he promised aid to Greece, President Roosevelt officially proclaimed "the neutrality of the United States of America in the war now existing between Italy, on the one hand, and Greece on the other."

Of course, American policy has developed rapidly. The Neutrality Act certainly does not represent American feeling today, unless it be in a reluctance to send ships into war zones. But how far have Americans really determined to carry through the policy now adopted? How sharply do they feel the obligation to make good on promises? How actively will they pursue the commitment to insure Nazi defeat?

Do the American people really feel that their frontier today is not only on the Rhine but on the Vardar and the Struma? Will they translate sympathy and admiration for the British, Greeks, and Yugoslavs into effective help while those peoples are able to defend the front line vigorously, or will the American people continue half awake until far more desperate demands are made upon them? Until they become visibly part of the front line?

(EDITORIAL)

The Christian Science Monitor, Tuesday, April 8, 1941.

### THE BALKAN CAMPAIGN

Hitler cannot win this war without decisively defeating Britain. From this main objective, he has been unwillingly diverted by the necessity of fighting a major campaign in the Balkans. He had no choice. In no other way, as things were going, could he bolster up Italy, restore Axis prestige and regain the initiative.

To this extent, Britain has profited. The danger of invasion of the British Isles has been temporarily decreased. Additional time has been won for the training and arming of British men, and for receiving American aid.

Hitler's hope, of course, is to defeat the Yugoslavs, Greeks and British expeditionaries in a series of hard, swift blows, so that he can get back as quickly as possible to the real job of crushing Britain. Even while hoping to avoid a Balkan campaign, he was carefully preparing it. His aim was to maneuver the Yugoslavs, then the Greeks, into surrendering without a fight. But he was ready to fight if necessary.

Hitler is seeking now to do to Yugoslavia and Greece what he did to Poland. Superior in men, planes and armament, he is trying to knock out the Yugoslav air force before it can get started, disrupt Greek and Yugoslav communications, and so hack his adversaries to pieces before they can organize a solid and continuous defense.

The mountainous terrain favors the Allies, but that the Greeks and Serbs will have to give some ground seems inevitable. At best, they may succeed in holding a long oblique mountain line from the Adriatic to the Struma River, northeast of Salonika. At worst, they may be driven back to some much shorter line



in southern Albania and northern Greece, which, if meanwhile they have not lost too many men, they might hold indefinitely.

Hitler's drive against Bengasi in Libya is a part of the same campaign. Its purpose is to keep the British from transferring any more troops from Africa to the Balkans, whether from the Egyptian Army, or from the armies which the collapse of the Italians in Ethiopia will soon release for service elsewhere.

If Yugoslavia and Greece could spare the men, they could now presumably throw the Italians out of Albania into the sea. But Hitler's calculation is that every Greek and Yugoslav soldier will be urgently needed to oppose his converging drives from the north and east.

Greece and Yugoslavia are short of men. Britain, too, is short of men—that is, of men trained and equipped. Hitler, on the other hand, has had a superiority in manpower from the first. He had it even before France fell. He has it doubly now, despite the necessity he is under of watching the Russian frontier, garrisoning the conquered countries, and guarding the long coast line from the Arctic Ocean to Spain. And by his repeated strategy of concentrating against his victims one at a time, he has made this superiority in manpower triply effective.

To speculate on what might have been is futile. But if France, Britain, Belgium, Holland, Denmark and Norway had undertaken a joint offensive against Hitler in 1939, while he was invading Poland, how different might the outcome have been! They preferred to ignore the danger, to refuse to believe in it. They would fight—oh yes—but only if attacked.

Similarly, if Yugoslavia and Greece, instead of waiting passively for Hitler to choose his own time and place, had invaded Rumania and Bulgaria when Hitler did, would they not today enjoy better chances of victory?

Right now, with Hitler deeply engaged in the Balkans, if Turkey and Russia should attack him simultaneously from the rear, they could probably administer to him a tremendous defeat. But, of course, they will not, and Hitler knows it. Of course, they will wait, like birds hypnotized by a snake, fluttering and helpless, to be devoured one at a time.

In this paralysis of will on the part of his adversaries lies Hitler's greatest strength. And such is the confused and divided state of our own public opinion here in America, that it ill befits us, we admit, to criticize others for what may seem to us, in retrospect, and at a distance, their tragic lack of foresight.

(EDITORIAL)

Chicago Daily News, April 8, 1941.

### THIS CHANGING WORLD

#### Pro-German Yugoslav Government Said to Have Weakened Army Before the Coup.

BY CONSTANTINE BROWN

News from the new Balkan battle front has been depressing in the last 24 hours but in official quarters it is felt it would be premature to judge the situation by developments so far.

The Germans, again with the initiative, have concentrated large and efficient forces at strategic points and it is not surprising that they have crossed the frontier and penetrated the mountains.

The Greeks, who have been at war now for almost seven months, were well organized to meet the German onslaught. The Yugoslavs were bound to be at a disadvantage at first.

The previous Belgrade pro-German government had weakened the army by shifts in the high command. A number of particularly well-qualified army corps and divisional commanders had been relieved and elderly men placed in charge. When the new government came in it had little time to reorganize the army command. The old generals have been removed for new men, but two weeks' time was not enough to restore the situation. It was unfortunate that shifts were made in the Bulgarian-Yugoslav border section. The Germans were undoubtedly well informed about them, because they made their main effort in that region.

The German announcement that Skoplje was captured is considered a serious blow to the Yugoslavs. It means the entire Vardar defense line is turned; the Serbs will be compelled to fall back on their last line of resistance, Veles-Prilep-Bitolj. Experts consider this line very strong, thanks to a difficult terrain that will hamper the invaders.

The German blitz illustrates once more that fists and bare breasts—regardless how heroic they may be—cannot withstand the terrific striking power of modern weapons. The Yugoslavs have artillery and machine guns and rifles, but they are all old-fashioned and ammunition is not in unlimited quantities as is required in modern warfare.

The British have not been in a position to send much stuff to Yugoslavia. The quantities sent to Southern Serbia are negligible since the country maintained a neutral attitude until 10 days ago. And the British did not dare send war material to a nation which might not use it. Now, means of transportation are limited, to put it mildly.

#### *Yugoslavia Needs Guns and Shells*

The stand in Southern Serbia would be effective if sufficient war material could reach the defenders. But with the fall of Salonika the chances of Yugoslavia's getting supplies from the outside world are reduced to a minimum.

The Belgrade government reckoned on American supplies, too. But the distance from United States to Aegean ports is great and Yugoslav neutrality here, too, prevented rushing assistance soon after the lease-lend bill was passed.

The Yugoslavs said they needed everything. They did not over-emphasize the need for tanks and bombers. Their modest demands were mostly for 75-millimeter guns and inexhaustible supplies of shells. We were able to send these, but it was only a few days ago that we began sending them. It will take weeks for the guns to reach their destination and it is wondered in many quarters here whether they will arrive in time.

The British say the general staffs have not had enough time for three-cornered consultations. Events moved so fast between the time the Belgrade cabinet



challenged the Reich and the invasion that the necessary preparations were not made.

So far the British troops have not seen action. In well-informed quarters it is believed British mechanized units from Africa are being rushed to the most menaced points in Thrace and Macedonia to bolster the Greeks and Serbs. But for the time being the Allies' main effort is to strengthen the position between Bitolj and the old Greek frontier at Larissa, where the main resistance will be offered should the Germans succeed in breaking through the positions facing the Rhodope and Southern Macedonian mountains.

Washington Evening Star, April 9, 1941.

### BALKAN SURPRISES

Reports of early Nazi victories in Yugoslavia were expected. Nevertheless the speed of the German advance and its apparent success in cutting off the Eastern Macedonian forces from the rest of the Greek army comes to many people as a surprise.

This break-through is attributed in dispatches from Athens as inevitable because Yugoslav forces had withdrawn in South Serbia, exposing the Greek flank. It illustrates one of the disadvantages of hastily constructed alliances, namely, lack of complete co-ordination of military plans.

Had all the Balkan States early recognized the danger which Nazi ambition held for them, they might not now be a battlefield. But some of them having given way under Nazi diplomatic terrorism, the others who would not yield to it are exposed to the Nazi military machine without sufficient preparation for joint action. For those who intend to resist Nazism, there is an object lesson in the opening of the Balkan campaign.

Among surprises of this campaign, however, is the fact that the Nazis have to wage it at all. Many who have seen the German machine from the inside have been convinced that it could move at will in continental Europe, and that this being obvious to its potential victims, it would probably meet with little or no resistance. The Nazis expected to get Yugoslavia free of charge. They are paying for it. They expected to beat the Greeks with fright, not to have to beat them in a fight. And were the Nazis to conquer these peoples Berlin would have gained not useful allies but a historically explosive territory in which to tie up more German troops with the task of occupation.

This is not to minimize the seriousness of the Nazi menace in the Balkans; or the British and American stakes in the outcome of the struggle there. Were the Nazis to mount the obstacles that Greek and Yugoslav courage have placed across their path, they would doubtless push on in an attempt to reach Suez and the much-needed oil of the Near East. But the overturn of the Yugoslav Regency meant that whatever the Nazis were to get from that point on they would have to get the hard way.

(EDITORIAL)

The Christian Science Monitor, April 9 1941.

### GERMANS CLOSE OWN MARKETS IN BALKAN DRIVE

BY OTTO ZAUSMER

*Economist and Lecturer on Foreign Affairs  
Written for The Christian Science Monitor*

The German war machine, striking against Yugoslavia and Greece, has thus closed several important loopholes of the British blockade and deprived the Reich of raw materials on which Germany has been depending.

Almost up to the outbreak of hostilities a few days ago, Germany's trade relations with Greece and Yugoslavia had been quite active. By means of barter and trade agreements, oftentimes reached at gun-point, Germany had acquired a dominating position on the Balkan market. In some of the countries in South-eastern Europe, Germany alone took 70 and more per cent of their exports. Together with Italy and the "protected" nations Germany had a monopoly on the exports.

Yugoslavia had been attempting to keep some trade flowing with a few nations outside the Nazi sphere. Yet about 80 per cent of Yugoslavia's surpluses went to the German-ruled part of Europe. The Reich itself—not to speak of Austria, the Bohemian-Moravian Protectorate, Poland, and all the other victims of the blitzkrieg—relied heavily on Yugoslavia. From the South Slav Kingdom came about 5 per cent of Germany's cattle imports, 10 per cent of all hogs and meat imports, 15 per cent of the fats, 5 per cent of the eggs, 18 per cent of all wheat, 5 per cent of all corn, 8 per cent of fruits, 7 per cent of the flax and hemp, 25 per cent of the lead ore, 25 per cent of the bauxite, several per cent of the copper and considerable quantities of wood.

#### *Big Supplier of Wheat*

Except for the Argentine, Yugoslavia was Germany's greatest supplier of wheat, and that there is little copper Germany may get anywhere in Europe at the present time once the flow from Yugoslavia stopped. Other raw materials are equally hard to replace, the more so since Germany has now to supply the minimum needs of the occupied countries, which, if they are to contribute to the Reich's war effort, can not be let down completely lest their economic life collapse.

The example of bauxite shows best Germany's position, as caused by the attack on Yugoslavia. This raw material that yields aluminum for the production of airplanes and other war accessories was supplied by Yugoslavia in large quantities. Germany has an annual consumption of slightly less than 1,200,000 tons of bauxite—not quite 2 per cent of which are mined in the Reich itself. The other 98 per cent have to be imported. 96,000 tons from Italy, 363,000 tons from Hungary which are still available, but with the British Royal Air Force pounding communication lines in Hungary and Austria shipments may come in slowly and irregularly. Another 90,000 tons came from France and the French colonies, thus at least a part of it cannot reach Germany unless through the British blockade.

But 190,000 tons usually bought in the Netherlands Indies, 85,000 tons from Greece, and 350,000 tons from Yugoslavia are definitely unavailable for the Nazis now. And in this case even an early German

military success will not relieve the situation. For the places where bauxite is mined in Yugoslavia lie several hundred miles from the border, well protected by natural fortifications.

#### *Heavy Drain on Reserves*

Yugoslavian bauxite yields some 53 to 59 per cent of aluminum and since considerable quantities used to go to Norway as raw material for the famous Norwegian aluminum industries, a severe shortage of this vital light metal will probably arise in the long run, perhaps even slowing down Germany's plane output. This is the more serious since the Balkan drive is likely to become a heavy drain on the Nazi plane reserves.

The bauxite situation applies in a lesser extent to other minerals. Since there is no Yugoslavian Bureau for Business Research and Statistics, just a Department of Statistics of the Yugoslavian National Bank, figures on raw material production are not very exact. The latest figures available are on the monthly production of last fall.

Here they are: Coal, 488,000 tons; lignites, 135,000 tons; pyrite, 13,300 tons; bauxite, 35,000 tons (which is some 15 per cent less than it was in 1938); copper ore, 87,700 tons; iron ore, 57,000 tons; chromium ore, 7,240 tons (or almost twice as much as in 1938); lead and zinc ore, 65,656 tons (almost six times as much as in 1938). The output of pig iron was 8,000 tons, raw copper 3,100, and electrolyt copper 753 tons.

If conquered and forced to yield the whole surplus and even more Yugoslavia could take care of 23 per cent of Germany's zinc and 33 per cent of its bauxite requirement. However this is rather theoretical for two reasons. First, Germany has to supply not only itself but also its vassals, and, second, the war may have a fatal influence on the Yugoslavian mines.

It took the Nazis more than six months to restore the Polish and Belgium mines at least partly and after nine months of occupation the Germans have not yet succeeded in bringing the French coal mines back into full operation. They were so thoroughly destroyed and flooded by the retreating French that it will take many more months to come until the French coal mines will yield only 50 per cent of their normal output, it was admitted in Berlin recently.

#### *Heavy Financial Loss*

On the top of all that, Germany lost its financial interests in Yugoslavian industry when it attacked the Balkans. The political and economic situations in Southeastern Europe have accounted for the fact that in 1929 about 46 per cent of the Yugoslavian industry and commerce, 38 per cent of its insurance business and 14 per cent of the banking were financed by foreign capital.

When the depression swept Europe, enormous funds were withdrawn in 1931, but today some 1,500 companies in Yugoslavia are in foreign hands. England has 1,100,000,000 dinars (normally \$25,000,000) invested there, Germany proper 820,000,000, the Protectorate of Bohemia-Moravia 440,000,000 and France, now under the German thumb, 1,150,000,000. All these Nazi-controlled holdings are now lost for the Reich.

Greece's trade is a minor loss for the Reich. However, it used to send 15 per cent of Germany's entire

fruit imports, 22 per cent of the tobacco, 10 per cent of the furs and hides and 7 per cent of the bauxite.

Since both Balkan countries have sold peacefully almost the maximum of what they could supply, a conquest of Greece and Yugoslavia, even if achieved, would only duplicate the unpleasant experience Adolf Hitler had in Denmark and France; once the first tide of looting is over, the stream of supplies forthcoming from such a country is by far smaller than it was before the invasion.

April 10, 1941.

#### **"NOTHING CAN SHAKE US"**

It was Marshal Foch who said, "The moral factor is the most important element in war." This truth needs emphasis today on the battlefield of American opinion even more than on the front lines in Yugoslavia, Greece, and Britain. The mental effects of the German Army's truly lightning strokes appear just now to be most devastating on the radio and cable front.

Attempts to blink the seriousness of the situation are as foolish as panic. It is both untrue and dangerous to pretend that the German breakthrough, the splitting of the Yugoslav forces and the loss of Salonika are not heavy blows. Yet now is the time to resist the extremes of despair which are as unjustified as were the air castles built on Yugoslav resistance.

Adversity seems to stun some people; others it arouses. The Greeks certainly come in the latter category. They had been beating one giant. Attacked by a second mechanical monster they held brilliantly, stubbornly. With one army cut off by the failure of the Serbs to hold the Vardar Valley, with Athens bombed, they say, "We know how to fight and will not be influenced by unfavorable turns. Nothing can shake us until final victory."

It should be noticed in addition that the Greeks are not asking, "Where are the British?" As explained elsewhere on this page, the Greeks had agreed with the British on a defense line back of Salonika.

Whether that line can be held now is not clear. Indeed judgments based on military forces and dispositions are particularly unsound at this time. Greek morale and the known courage of the Yugoslavs and British are the firmest factors in the picture.

How about American opinion, also now committed to Nazi defeat? Will Americans be stunned or stirred by these new blows? Will they join the plainly imperilled Greeks in saying, "Nothing can shake us"? We believe they will. And that they will take practical steps to back up their feeling.

Those with eyes to see have understood for a long time that the present struggle was basically mental and moral in character. If Marshal Foch, taught as a military commander to count men and materials, could see that in the physical combat itself the moral factor is paramount, how much more sharply should be our perception of its importance in the kind of struggle that now engulfs the world? And how resolute should be our determination to hold the vital second line of opinion, where moral and mental factors are even more visible! Let us recall Elisha's prayer that his servant's eyes be opened.

—Editorial

The Christian Science Monitor, April 10, 1941

## LAST-MINUTE STRATEGY

Speed of the Nazi advance which captured Salonika has raised doubts as to the effectiveness of British aid to Greece and Yugoslavia. The British Prime Minister probably does not share these doubts, but he could hardly have stated them better than he did in his war report to the House of Commons Wednesday "I am sure there is no less likely way of winning the war than to adhere pedantically to the maxim of safety first."

The apparently purely defensive tactics so far employed by the British forces seem to be occasioned, however, less by outmoded faith in defensive warfare than by the same considerations to which we referred yesterday when we pointed out the disadvantage of hastily constructed alliances. As the last-minute stand of Yugoslavia left too little time for co-ordination between its Army and that of Greece, so likewise, it found the British and Greeks already agreed upon plans of action which did not count on Yugoslav resistance to the Axis. Their lines therefore followed those already established by the Greeks in Albania, and the mountainous terrain from there across the Greek peninsula.

Whether loss of Salonika was conceded is a question. That port in German hands becomes a probable air base and a possible submarine base. But with only the prospect of Greek and British forces to meet a Nazi thrust aided by Bulgarian, Hungarian, and possibly Yugoslav passivity, it is more than likely the Allies felt they should build their defenses where these would be strongest.

For some weeks the British had been ferrying equipment and men to various Greek ports. They could make no such preparations in Yugoslavia. Why? Because Yugoslav resistance to the Axis did not aim at bringing Britain into Yugoslavia as an ally, but only at preserving absolute Yugoslav neutrality as between the Nazis and the British. This policy did not permit aid from Britain until Nazi troops were already on the march.

Those who feel disappointed that the British did not rush into Yugoslavia to meet the oncoming Germans should realize that that action would have entailed risks similar to those that trapped the Greek Macedonian forces when the Yugoslavs withdrew from south Serbia and exposed the Greek flank. Moreover, immediate rescue of Yugoslavia is not necessarily the aim of the Allies in the Balkans. The Yugoslavs took their stand with full knowledge of what they were up against.

It is what ultimately happens to the Nazis that determines the fate of such small countries as Greece and Yugoslavia. What ultimately happens to the Nazis depends on the ability of the British, with American aid, to break the Nazi grip over all Europe. Part of that task is to divert Nazi attention away from the keystone of democratic resistance—the British Isles; to cause them to use up man-power and materiel in warfare like this being carried on in the Balkans; to disrupt supply centers such as Yugoslavia, Bulgaria, Hungary, and Rumania.

The immediate problem of the British and their allies now is to maintain an active second front on which they can keep the Germans fighting while, if possible, preventing them from rescuing the Italians in Albania. The speed of the German thrust has

thrown disquieting doubts on the Allies' ability to do this. But the Turkish and Russian positions remain to be tested, and military experts feel that the Allies still have some tricks to turn.

(EDITORIAL)

The Christian Science Monitor, April 10, 1941

## GERMANY GETS THE JUMP

Bad news from the Balkans should not cause panicky pessimism, but facts should be resolutely faced. On the fourth day after the start of a whirlwind offensive begun at dawn on Palm Sunday, the Germans have reached vital military objectives. The entire Vardar River Valley, from Southern Serbia to the port city of Salonika, is in German hands, and thereby the heroic right wing of the Greek Army is cut off, but is still fighting. The rest of the Greek Army is retiring to a new defensive line west of the Vardar River, where it will presumably be strengthened by the British expeditionary force. But the loss of Salonika and the Vardar Valley practically isolates Yugoslavia and prevents effective liaison between its army and the Anglo-Greek forces. Indeed, with the Germans occupying at least half of the relatively narrow strip of Yugoslav territory which separates Bulgaria from Albania, it is difficult to see how a junction between the German and Italian armies can be prevented. Also, Allied plans for quickly driving the Italians into the Adriatic must have gone sadly awry.

These are extraordinary achievements on the German side. The Reichswehr is obviously functioning as efficiently as it did in Norway, the Low Countries and Northern France. Indeed, when one considers the topographical difficulties which confronted it, the general break through the mountain wall sundering Bulgaria from the Vardar Valley is perhaps the Reichswehr's crowning achievement in the present war. It was that break-through which nullified the Greek Army's magnificent resistance on its mountain front.

Why did the Yugoslavs thus fall? The Vardar region must have been packed with their best troops, since this was obviously the danger spot. The morale of those troops was excellent, their leadership was seemingly good, and there could have been no element of surprise. The only explanation for the quick German success seems to be the overwhelming technical and mechanical superiority of the German war machine.

More than any other existing army, the Reichswehr contains many highly specialized units, kept continuously trained to the pitch of perfection, and all co-ordinated into a smoothly functioning whole. German dispatches speak of mountain assault troops and flame-throwing detachments heading the break-through to the Vardar and sweeping the Yugoslavs from the heights. It is more than likely that these specialists arrived in Bulgaria months ago, under the guise of "tourists," and that they have been practicing on their chosen ground ever since. Perhaps those were the men who scaled the Norwegian mountains just a year ago. Possibly they have been held in reserve ever since, for another similar job. That is the way the Germans wage war. And, in European land campaigns, it has proved thus far most effective.

The Yugoslav Army was a good army. Its human material was excellent and it had fine spirits. But it was built on the old model of a few branches of the service, and it was lamentably weak in mechanized equipment. In short, it was very much like the French Army of last summer. And it is seemingly meeting a similar fate. The Greeks did much better, because they were more up to date in equipment and experience. The bulk of the Greek Army is still in being, backed by crack units of Britain's Imperial Army. When the Reichswehr comes to grips with this combination, its supreme test will have arrived.

(EDITORIAL)

Washington Evening Star, April 10, 1941.

### BALKAN BLITZ

Five days after Hitler launched his attack on Yugoslavia and Greece, German forces were in possession of Salonika, having in the meantime smashed their way down the Vardar River Valley and forced the surrender of the Greek troops who had been fighting a valiant rear guard action in Thrace. The magnitude of this latest Nazi victory is not to be discounted. When the fighting began, few assumed that the Yugoslavs and Greeks with the support of the British would indefinitely be able to hold the line against Hitler's mechanized legions. It was believed, however, that there would this time be no repetition of the lightning success scored by the Germans first in Norway and later in the Low Countries and France. The German army, it was generally assumed, would be held up for some time by difficulties of the terrain.

These assumptions have so far proved false. While striking out through the Rupel Pass at the Greek forces assembled in Thrace, a powerful German unit crossed the mountains separating the Struma River from the Vardar and captured Skoplje. This sudden and possibly unexpected assault crumbled the Yugoslav lines, thus enabling the Germans to press down the Vardar Valley. In consequence the right wing of the Greek line was forced to give way and the evacuation of Salonika was ordered. Now a German force is driving on to effect a junction with the Italians. If that junction is made and in sufficient depth to make possible an impregnable line of communications the blow to the Allies would be even greater than that which they suffered through the loss of Salonika. For then Yugoslavia would be cut off from Greece and the joint Greek-Yugoslav pressure on the harassed Italian forces in Albania would lose much of its force. Whether the Allies can prevent that juncture is problematical, however, in view of the circumstance that, with the capture of Tetovo, Prilep and Veles, German troops are now within 15 miles of the nearest Italian forces.

In view of the lack of information, it is far from clear as to just what took place. It is apparent, however, that this time as in the past, the Germans had the enormous advantage of choosing the time and the place to attack. Instead of aiming their first attack at Belgrade, the Germans contented themselves with the bombardment of the Yugoslav capital, which has now largely been laid in ruins. Instead their most considerable drive appears to have been toward a point far to the south of Belgrade. The Allies had to

guard a long, extended front. Yet they lacked any careful coordinated program of action. As long as Yugoslavia was neutral, and that was the case from the beginning of the war until the country was actually attacked, it was out of the question to work out any joint Anglo-Greek-Yugoslav strategy. Nor could the British risk sending to Yugoslavia any considerable quantity of equipment from their all-too-meager store. The curse of the policy of neutrality pursued by the little nations of Europe has again returned to plague them. It has disastrous consequences in the case of Norway, Netherlands and Belgium. It is now reaping its toll in the Balkans. Because of this neutrality Yugoslavia found herself with a limited supply of modern weapons with which to hurl back the fierce German mechanized assault. And because of the seemingly friendly relations that existed between Athens and Berlin, the Greek government was loath to permit large-scale reinforcements of British troops to reach Greece, and the British were not in the line when the attack began. The beginning of the Nazi blitz thus saw a repetition in the Balkans of the grim situation that occurred when Holland and Belgium were attacked last year.

Nonetheless, it is far too early to take a hopeless view of the situation either in the Balkans or in North Africa. In the Balkans the great bulk of the British forces have not yet been engaged. Hardened veterans of Gen. Wavell's army, they can be expected to give a good account of themselves. Moreover, the Greek and Yugoslav armies are in the field and must continue to be reckoned with. And in Africa the German-Italian drive cannot compensate Italy for the smashing up of Graziani's army or the loss of supplies painfully accumulated over a period of five years. It is most unlikely that from the recaptured Libyan bases, Germany will be able to mount an offensive against Egypt, though the recaptured airfields can be used to harass British shipping in the eastern Mediterranean. But the greatest comfort the British may derive from a situation which is otherwise very dark indeed is that Hitler's Balkan venture postpones the invasion of Britain and has compelled him to divide his forces. If the Allied lines hold at any point, and compel Germany to undertake a prolonged campaign, the striking victories won by Hitler during the past five days will prove to have only a temporary and limited value. The fight goes on.

(EDITORIAL)

Washington Post, April 10, 1941.

### HITLER'S NEW VICTORY

Hitler's new victory in the Balkans, if it is confirmed, can have serious consequences. The war is a world war. It is a fight on Hitler's part for world domination. And what happens on one front can affect all the others.

Turkey, which seemed on the verge of casting in its lot irretrievably with Britain, may now again hesitate. It has waited too long. It has lost its best opportunity. As next on Hitler's list, it may even, in its desire to avoid combat, join the Axis. If it does, the way will be opened for Hitler to attack the British at Suez from two sides at once.

Russia, too—another designated victim—has lost another chance. It, also, has waited too long. And

Stalin's reaction, now more than ever is likely to be to avoid combat at any cost.

Italy, on the other hand, will perhaps be saved from utter defeat. As a Hitler vassal, its armed forces, commanded henceforth by Germans and brigaded, so to speak with Germans, can still swell the already enormous total of Hitler's armies.

And finally, Japan, which hesitated to attack Singapore while Britain was winning victories over Italy, may now be persuaded to accede to Hitler's urgings, and open a new front against Britain in the Far East.

For Hitler, the recovery of prestige is as impressive as it is sudden. Both Britain and the United States, on the other hand, will have lost prestige. We and the British both, though in different ways, were committed to aid Yugoslavia and Greece. Every people in the world will perforce take note of the fact that our aid was at once too little, and too late.

Certainly, the Balkan campaign is not yet ended. The British expeditionary force, for example, was not engaged at all in the first few days, when Hitler's armored divisions were crashing through the junction point of the Greek and Serbian armies to Skoplje, and then to Salonika. The bulk of the Serbian army should still be intact, though its main lines of communications have been severed, and it is apparently already cut off from the British and Greeks. A British and Yugoslav reaction is still not inconceivable. But with every day, every hour that passes, the chances of undertaking an effective counteroffensive are visibly lessened. Already it seems likely that the British and Greeks are planning, not a counterattack, but a new defensive line across northern Greece and southern Albania, in the hope of being able to stop the Germans there, at least.

(EDITORIAL)

Chicago Daily News, April 10, 1941.

## BALKAN DISASTER

### Tragedy of Unpreparedness.

BY BARNET NOVER

Nazi spokesmen in Berlin are jubilantly predicting that Yugoslavia will have been completely knocked out by Easter Sunday and that before another fortnight has rolled by the war in the Balkans will be over. It sounds fantastic and probably is. But in view of the events of the last few days it is obvious that anything can happen, including the worst.

The German army has repeated in the Balkans the tactics it employed last year in Norway, the Low Countries and France and with the same amazing success. True, it was a victory achieved at a price, possibly at a considerable price. Had it not been for the refusal of the valiant Yugoslav people to permit their country to become a Nazi doormat, Hitler would have achieved through pressure tactics alone what he has gained through the more costly method of invasion and conquest. But there can be no minimizing that victory nor the consequences that may develop from it.

In five brief days the German army succeeded in paralyzing Yugoslav resistance in the Vardar Valley, reached Salonika, cut off the eastern wing of the Greek army which had fought with a valor recognized even

by the enemy, drove on toward Albania and practically isolated Yugoslavia from her Greek and British allies.

Salonika was an important base of Allied operations in the last war. From that base the Allies launched an offensive in 1918 that proved to be the beginning of the end for the Central Powers. That base is now in German hands. They will use it to harass British communications in the eastern Mediterranean, hold up shipments of men and supplies from Egypt to Greece and in other ways hamper the British war effort in the Balkans. The fact that there were no British troops at Salonika at any time since the German attack began suggests that the British high command believed that strategic port to be untenable probably because it was uncomfortably close to German air bases in Bulgaria. Sooner or later the Germans might have taken it over anyway. What counts, however, is the speed with which that objective was encompassed.

Again as in the past Hitler has made time his ally. He struck before his opponents could organize any kind of joint resistance, and he struck hard and effectively.

Under Prince Paul Yugoslavia had maintained a scrupulous neutrality while leaning economically to the Third Reich. He hoped in that way to spare his country the disaster of war and invasion. He was following the example set by so many other European nations, Norway, Belgium, Holland among them, and with the same disastrous results.

When Yugoslav public opinion rebelled against the sell-out of their country by its timorous rulers, realizing full well what it would mean in the way of provoking Hitler's wrath, the time was all too short to make any far-reaching strategic plans with the Greeks and the British. There was certainly not time enough for the British to send to Yugoslavia the mechanized equipment she needed so desperately. Now, with Salonika gone, with the key points in Yugoslavia's railroad system in German hands, with German columns penetrating into Yugoslavia's vitals, the Yugoslav army's lack of modern equipment will be felt more tragically than ever.

In the meantime, the psychological consequences of the latest German victory are likely to be no less important than its military results. Together with the far less important recapture by a German-Italian mechanized force of most of Libya, it will give a new lease on life to the hard-pressed Italians; it will encourage the Quislings throughout Europe to continue along their treacherous course; it may persuade the timorous Turks to remain behind the shelter of their frontier indefinitely, and revive Japanese dreams of grandeur.

Now, as in the case of Norway, the Low Countries and France the initial impact of the German Wehrmacht on the enemy forces may have been so devastating that it will prove impossible for the Yugoslavs, the Greeks and the British to place an effective barrier in Hitler's path. That remains to be seen.

If it can be done the gains made by the German army during the last five days will not ultimately have the decisive character they now appear to have. If the war in the Balkans is prolonged even ultimate victory will prove of little value to Hitler. For it would mean a victory achieved at tremendous cost and in a theater of war which, after all, is not the

decisive theater. The fact that, on the day of the fall of Salonika, Berlin was subjected to the fiercest bombing it has received since the beginning of the war shows that in the west Britain's offensive power is growing, despite daily air raids on British cities and a submarine and bombing plane attack on British shipping whose seriousness cannot for a moment be minimized.

The time element in the Balkan war as in every other theater of the conflict is of the utmost importance. Hitler has won the first round. His opponents have been knocked down. They have not yet been knocked out. The fight goes on. If Yugoslavia and Greece can, with British aid, recover from the bitter blow they have received, the picture may ultimately undergo a marked change. And with each passing week the American capacity to serve as the arsenal of the democracies steadily grows. It is far too early to take a despairing view of the situation. Washington Post, April 11, 1941.

### HITLER'S WARFARE IN BALKANS CHARACTERISTICALLY THOROUGH AFTER FAILURE OF "DIPLOMACY"

BY CARROLL BINDER

*Foreign Editor of The Chicago Daily News*

Having satisfied himself that his objectives in the Balkans could not be accomplished by the preferred methods of intimidation, intrigue and corruption, Hitler is waging war there with characteristic thoroughness. The German dictator had hoped to incorporate this rich and strategically important area into the New Order without military operations, which at least temporarily diminished badly needed agricultural and mineral production, but when the Yugoslavs and Greeks refused to be peacefully conquered he did not hesitate to attack them in full force.

The speed with which German forces have overrun large sections of Yugoslavia and Greece, is due in part to able advance preparation as well as to the superior military strength of Germany.

In the Balkans as in virtually every other sector of the war the initiative lay wholly with Germany. The Greeks and the Yugoslavs knew that Hitler was determined to subjugate them by force if it could not be done otherwise but they neither took steps themselves nor permitted their British ally to take steps to upset Hitler's plans in advance.

#### *Denied Use of Air Ports*

They did not permit British bombers to take off from their airports to destroy German troop concentrations and communications in Bulgaria and Hungary or the Rumanian oil fields, which represent the solar plexus of the German war machine just now.

Such preventive measures might have spared both Yugoslavia and Greece some of the disasters they have suffered in the first week of the war in the Balkans but they chose not to risk incurring Hitler's wrath prematurely by taking the initiative.

The British general staff was rebuffed when it sought to confer with the Yugoslav staff during Prince Paul's regency. Nor did the Yugoslavs and the Greeks confer in advance of the Yugoslav coup d'etat, which probably is a principal explanation of the amaz-

ingly quick severance of the Greek-Yugoslav lines and lightning seizure of Salonika.

This strategic advantage enjoyed by Hitler is worth stressing because it may prove to be an important factor in the destinies of Turkey and Russia. Those two countries would seem to have less to lose by collaborating with Great Britain, Greece and Yugoslavia in resisting the German advance in the Balkans than they risk by remaining passive while Germany disposes of these initial obstacles to its expansion.

#### *Turks, Reds, Passive*

Yet there are no signs of imminent military action by either Turkey or Russia. Turkey's commitments should have set its armies in motion many days ago, but it takes refuge in the explanation that it lacks adequate equipment for offensive action.

Russia signed a treaty of friendship and non-aggression with Yugoslavia on the eve of Hitler's attack on Yugoslavia and the Russian press this week lauded Yugoslavia's military and other virtues.

But Walter Duranty, who has been covering Russia for more than 20 years and who is one of the few foreign journalists to be permitted to visit Russia in the last six months, thinks Russia means to adhere to its policy of neutrality in the war. Despite the large Red Army concentrations on the Soviet border from the Black Sea to the Baltic, Duranty says there will be no Russian challenge to Germany and that Russian oil, food and other supplies continue to go to Germany despite deteriorated relations between the two countries.

In this connection the Italian official news agency Stefani on Friday published a dispatch from its Moscow correspondent saying that Russia had signed an agreement to provide Germany with 1,000,000 tons of mineral oil—the largest amount of mineral oil Russia had ever agreed to provide a foreign country.

#### *U S Just as Lax, Charge*

Protagonists of Russia, Turkey, Greece and Yugoslavia argue that Americans have no right to criticize those countries for failing to take in advance what would appear to be elementary precautionary measures for common resistance to an obvious German threat. They point out that the situation of the United States resembles that of those countries in most respects except for the factor of proximity.

To date, however, there appear to have been practically no discussions between the American and British military general staffs as to just how the respective forces of the two nations might best be employed and in what area in the event that the United States decided its national security could be best safeguarded by immediate participation in the war.

If action against Germany should be decided upon by the American government in the near future it presumably would have as little prior understanding with its principal ally as to where and how the armed forces, the air strength and other units of national defense should be employed and under what conditions as the Yugoslavs and Greeks had when the Germans attacked both countries on Palm Sunday morning.

The explanation, of course, is that the United States still operates on the assumption that its national security is going to be assured solely by supplying



Great Britain and its allies with the means of waging war. But realistic consideration of the striking power of Germany and Great Britain's present means of defense suggests that the contribution of American materials to Britain may not prove sufficient to free the United States from the totalitarian menace

#### *Gravity of British Position*

The gravity of the position of Great Britain is not easily appreciated by the casual reader of the dispatches. It may be summarized briefly as follows:

Despite shortages of men and fighting equipment Great Britain has concentrated a considerable portion of its strength in Greece, where it is attempting to repel a carefully prepared and superbly equipped German assaulting force. The British realized that the dispatch of this force to Greece entailed serious risks of another Dunkirk but they felt that to fail to support Greece and Yugoslavia would cost them heavily in moral support in the United States and elsewhere abroad, as well as at home.

But the Yugoslavs to date have proved much less effective militarily than had been anticipated. In the meantime the depletion of British forces in North Africa has enabled the German motorized forces there to recover much of the territory won in January and February from Italy. The position of the British in Egypt and at the strategically invaluable Suez Canal is seriously jeopardized by the advancing German motorized forces in Libya and the German forces at Salonika. Collapse of Italy in Ethiopia and Eritrea releases some men and material for use in North Africa but they may be some time in getting there.

At the same time German agents have created an unfavorable political situation for Great Britain in Iraq, whose oil is invaluable to Britain and ardently desired by Germany. Germans are supposed to be primarily responsible for political ferment in Syria, which may further weaken the British position in the Middle East. It is possible that German agents are making headway in Turkey, where the veteran intriguer, Franz von Papen, is German ambassador.

#### *Nazi Activities in Spain*

Germany and its French partisans are driving a bigger wedge between unoccupied France and Great Britain and German activities in Spain are steadily on the increase. There is no telling at what moment the Germans may make a move in that part of Europe.

Meantime, the campaign to knock out Britain by combined air and submarine attacks grows more vigorous and deadly. The reader is likely to lose interest in the monotonous succession of dispatches recounting air attacks on British industrial cities, ports and shipyards, and sinkings, of British vessels. But the cumulative effect of these destructions on land and at sea is staggering. It is the most important phase of the many-fronted Battle of Britain.

Each successful destruction of a British airplane plant, each munition-bearing ship sent to the bottom of the sea, means that much advantage gained over Britain by its powerful adversary. Each loss means that instead of Great Britain attaining, with the help of the United States and the dominions, that superiority in the air and at sea that would lead to the defeat of Germany, the relative strength of Germany has been increased.

Unless such severe sea losses as those suffered during March (529,684 tons) can be speedily overcome, the efforts of American industry to win the war by increased output will, as Churchill plainly stated, be of no avail. German leaders boast that they are sinking munitions faster than the United States can produce them for Britain. Now that improved weather at sea greatly widens the area of operation of submarines preying on Britain-bound shipping the statistics may be even more unfavorable.

#### *So Germany Forges Ahead*

The sum of these observations is that Germany is forging ahead faster than is generally appreciated and that Italy's conspicuous weakness is not going to be a decisive factor in the war—at least at this stage.

American policy became more clearly anti-German and pro-British than ever this week. The president sent cordial measures to the governments that have suffered at German hands and the state department curtly rejected Axis representations.

Ten coast guard vessels were turned over to the British and the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden were reopened to American shipping, thus relieving some of the strain for over-burdened British shipping.

High officers of the air force, navy and army were sent to Britain for consultations that may remedy the situation mentioned above as well as make possible more effective use of American ships and planes by the British. Previously the effectiveness has been seriously limited by differences in sizes of equipment, methods of operation, etc.

The decision of the United States to maintain air bases and fortifications in Greenland is important for its bearing on the successful conveying of munitions and material to Britain as well as for its relationship to hemispheric defense.

Such developments indicate how much importance the United States attaches to successful resistance to totalitarian expansion. In view of the many German successes this week, those who are concerned for the security of this nation can only hope that the moves have not been too limited in scope and too belated to achieve their purposes.

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#### **CROATIA: LAND OF PEASANTS AND "UPRISERS"**

**Croatian People to Go on Plowing Fields and Raising Chickens and Pigs If Land Escapes Haxoc—State Split From Yugoslavia Headed by Revolutionists Who Plotted Assassination of King Alexander.**

BY R H MARKHAM

*(Balkan Correspondent of The Christian Science Monitor  
Who is now in the United States)*

Axis news sources announce that Croatia has separated itself from the rest of Yugoslavia, and that a Croatia government has been set up in the city of Zagreb. The two principal men in or behind the regime seem to be Dr. Ante Pavelitch and Gen. Sladko Kvaternik, both fanatical anti-Serb revolutionists and both agents of the Axis powers.

These men have long been leaders of a powerful revolutionary organization, called Ustashi, which in Croatian simply means Uprisers or Rebels. Before



these men and their staff became Ustashi, they were active in an old nationalist Croatian organization, called Dr Frank's Party, the members of which were usually known as Frankovtsi.

They were mostly city people and intellectuals, and from the very beginning in 1918 were bitterly opposed to union with Serbia. They wanted an independent Croatia. They were always extremists and usually based their policies on narrow hatred. They were men of action as well as of words, most were daring, many were very able. They were impatient with the peasant masses and opposed to democracy. They exhibited many Nazi traits long before the Nazi party was created in Germany.

#### *Resorted to Direct Action*

Numerically they were never important. At the height of their political power the group had two deputies in the Yugoslav Parliament, and later one of those deputies went over to Dr. Vlatko Matchek, while the other one left the country. The Frankovtsi received 2 or 3 per cent of the Croatian votes and those almost exclusively in Zagreb. The mass of the people supported the Peasant Party.

Realizing their political weakness, the Frankovtsi early made plans for direct action, and when King Alexander imposed a dictatorship on Yugoslavia in January, 1929, the Frankovtsi leaders fled from the country in order to give themselves exclusively to revolutionary activity.

They become "Uprisers." They set up camps for training terrorists, in Hungary and Italy and these often rushed over the borders into Yugoslavia to perpetrate acts of violence. They threw many bombs, placed infernal machines in vital places, assassinated Serbians. They even launched quite an uprising in the mountains of upper Dalmatia.

#### *Plotted Against King*

They brought this terrorist activity to a climax in the assassination of King Alexander in 1934. The actual murderer was a Bulgarian but the instigators and directors of the conspiracy as shown by the trial in Paris were Dr. Pavelitch and Mr. Kvaternik, aided by the states of Italy and Hungary. The aim of the plotters was to destroy Yugoslavia. This week they reached their goal—temporarily.

The boundaries of Croatia's new borders will conform to Herr Hitler's desires, tempered only by whatsoever concessions he deems it expedient to grant Italy and Hungary.

There has been no independent Croatia for 850 years and geographically the country has no natural borders. Neither has the Croatian nation definite ethnological borders. The Croatians blend into and are mixed with other peoples, notably Serbs. Consequently, the borders of Croatia will be arbitrary and will follow the lines that Nazi military economic and political aspirations demand.

#### *Its Possible Boundaries*

Probably the new Croatia will include all former Austro-Hungarian territories in Yugoslavia, except small districts accorded to the Hungarians, Slovenia, also, may be joined directly to the Reich instead of to Croatia. In other words, the new creation will probably embrace Croatia proper, Slavonia, Bosina, Her-

zegovina, Dalmatia, and perhaps Montenegro. It may be about as large as the State of Mississippi.

It will have superb harbors on the Adriatic, especially at Kotor, Split, Shibenik, and Sushak, a long, beautiful coast line, vast woods, many alluring lakes, mines of various kinds and some excellent agricultural districts. It may contain 7,000,000 or 8,000,000 inhabitants, about half of whom will be non-Croatians.

It goes without saying that the new Croatia will not be free. It will be an adjunct of the Reich, completely and unreservedly under Nazi domination. It would form a very vital part of "Greater Germany." It would give that largest Central European state a southern outlet on the sea.

#### *Valuable Ports in Area*

The Croatian port of Sushak (adjoining Fiume) on the upper Adriatic is not quite as conveniently situated for German commerce as Trieste, direct railroad lines from Vienna to Sushak could quickly be completed.

In that way Herr Hitler would acquire a good southern harbor without suffering the embarrassment of taking Trieste from Italy. The acquisition of Dalmatia would also give the Germans pleasant visions of warm and alluring vacation resorts. For years scores of thousands of Germans have spent part of their summers in Dalmatia.

It seems certain that the people in separate Croatia will not be very happy. In the first place, the 3,000,000 or 4,000,000 of minorities will not enjoy Croatian domination. In the second place, the Croatians will not enjoy the domination of their authoritarian Frankovtsi leaders.

The Frankovtsi scorn people who work close to the soil, and most Croatians do. Finally the people of Croatia, minority and majority, will not like German domination. They never have, during centuries of it.

#### *Tired of Long Struggle*

However, they will not openly resist the new order. First, that seems impossible; second, the Croatians haven't pleasant memories of Serbian mastery; third, they are very tired after a struggle that has lasted 2½ decades, and finally the new alignment offers favorable economic opportunities.

Then, too, it must be remembered that during recent days the Nazis did not devastate Croatian cities and villages. The Croatians have been spared and as they look at the horrible ruins of Serbian homes, churches and market places to their own intact communities they may feel a kind of security in the grim shadow of German tanks.

In view of all this, it is not impossible that Dr. Matchek has, as reported, given his support to the new situation. Croatia is dearer to him than any other place on earth. He has spent his life bravely working for it. He has more right to be called its father than any other living man.

His Croatian people all remain, their little homes remain, spring has come, fields are being plowed and sown, little chickens, little goslings and little pigs are in the farm yards, peasant men and women are trying to make the most of the hills and valleys and streams amid which they have lived a thousand years. They are in Germany's grasp now and see no possible

escape, so Dr. Matchek may have accepted what he could not prevent and have pledged his peasant people his continued service.

#### *Stays With His People*

Dr. Matchek seems to have been utterly honorable in his whole action. He remained with his great Slav family and with its Yugoslav branch. He also tried his best to serve democracy and to oppose Nazism. That effort failed, so he stays with his people.

Dispatches from Axis sources say that Zagreb enthusiastically received the German army. Some Zagrebians may have. Their one dominant emotion was hatred for Serbs. Not a few told this writer more than once, "We would cheer even if Beelzebub marched into free us from the Serbs." Perhaps they meant it.

For the moment Yugoslavia has collapsed, but people who make easy judgments should remember that it was crushed by outside and not internal forces, that the new Government was made by renegades in the service of Croatia's bitterest enemies, that during the last five years Yugoslavia moved toward harmony and that in spite of all repression the Croatian peasants made far more cultural and political progress during the two decades they formed part of Yugoslavia than during any other century in their history. Yugoslavia was essentially a good creation.

April 12, 1941

### **A WEEK OF THE WAR**

#### **German Blitzkrieg Sweeps Across Yugoslavia and Greece.**

BY DON RUSSELL

Last Sunday at 5.15 a. m. German troops invaded Yugoslavia and Greece in a blitzkrieg that has followed the accustomed pattern of surprise and maneuver so that by Wednesday it appeared that there remained only the completion of their program of divide and conquer.

On that same day Winston Churchill, in a speech before the House of Commons, admitted that no staff conversations had been permitted between British and Greek military authorities and those of Yugoslavia during the regency of Prince Paul. In the 10 days that elapsed between the coup d'état of Gen. Richard Dusan Simovic and the German attack there was scant time to concert a military plan.

Not a whole lot has become known about Yugoslav operations, but there has been evident some lack of concert between Yugoslav forces and those of Greece and Britain. Yesterday German reports claimed that resistance in south Serbia was crushed, that Yugoslav forces northwest of Nish were in flight, and that there was no report of hard fighting on any front. This, of course, may be an exaggeration.

As was expected, the first weight of German attack fell on the Struma and Vardar valleys, parallel rivers emptying on either side of Salonika. The Greeks heroically defended the Rupel Pass in the Struma Valley at their frontier. Last Sunday they told of the destruction of 10 tanks and of five to six planes, and of heaps of German dead. One fort was lost Sunday and the forts of Istinbey and Kelkaya fell Monday, but the Greeks still held Rupel and Usita.

#### *Break Greek Defenses*

Meanwhile a German force said to consist of panzer divisions with tanks and flame throwers, and Alpine chasseurs attacked across the Rhodope Mountains, and, despite the great difficulty of the terrain, succeeded. A threat against Skoplje in the Vardar Valley drew off Yugoslav troops further south at the Yugoslavia-Bulgaria-Greece frontier, and the Germans took Doiran, exposing the Greek flank, as the Greek communique of Tuesday complained. Skoplje, the most important point in the lower Vardar Valley, was taken by the Germans and their columns pushed on southward down the pass east of Axioupolis and the Vardar Valley.

East of the Struma Valley the Greeks battled Tuesday on the Nevrokopi Plateau, the Davtavil fort was lost, but was retaken in a counterattack, but Rupel, Usita, Paliourone, Karata and Lisse and the Kilkis districts held out against strong German attacks.

#### *Germans Take Salonika*

Wednesday morning the Germans entered Salonika, important port on the Aegean Sea assumed to be the base for British forces. However, there was no fighting for Salonika, and subsequent statements from the Greeks declare contact with the German attackers was broken off early Wednesday, not to be resumed until yesterday.

German control of the Vardar Valley was completed by the capture of Nish at 11 a. m. Wednesday. Another German column took Komotike in Thrace, driving the Greeks back on Alexandroupolis on the Aegean near the Turkish frontier. The Germans have claimed that both this force and the Greek force isolated in the Struma Valley have surrendered, but reports from Greek sources Thursday and yesterday told of continued resistance in both sectors, and hinted of retreat through the ports of Kavalla and Alexandroupolis.

After the Germans took Skoplje, they occupied Veles, Tetovo and Prilep, and on Friday took Bitolj—famous under its old name of Monastir in the last war, dominating a pass west of the Vardar, and Janitsa (Jannitsa). From Bitolj an advance party of Germans made first contact with British forces yesterday.

The British and Greeks now hold a line from south of Janitsa on the Gulf of Salonika and near Mount Olympus through Edessa to Florina (Phlorina) south of Bitolj, where it apparently is in contact with the Greek line held these many months against the Italians. In this area—that of Lake Ochrida on the Albania-Yugoslavia-Greece border, the Yugoslavs attacked Tuesday. Italian reports say the attack was defeated and Italian forces took Bgrad on the Yugoslav side of the frontier.

#### *Yugoslav Forces Attack*

In northern Albania the Yugoslavs were reported to have taken Scutari, which the Italians deny, and to have pushed on up the Drin River to Kukas. The Yugoslavs also claim to have taken Zara, an Italian port on the Dalmatian coast completely surrounded by Yugoslav territory, and there was one report that they had taken Fiume. But the Germans have pushed into the northern part of Yugoslavia, occupying the Banat Tuesday, Maribor (Marburg) and a bridgehead on the Drava Wednesday, and on Thursday took Zabreb, which they set up as capital of an independent

Croatian state. Yesterday Hungarian troops occupied Vojvodina—the Bacza. Banat and Baranya areas, taken from Hungary in 1918. Britain broke diplomatic relations with Hungary Monday. Italian forces yesterday occupied Longatico and were advancing on Ljubljana, across the Julian Alps from Italian territory.

Belgrade, although declared an open town, was heavily bombed last Sunday and a German army under Col. Gen. Baron Maximilian von Weichs is advancing against it. There is no indication that the Yugoslavs are defending Belgrade in force.

The present disposition of the British Army under Gen. Sir Henry Maitland Wilson and the Greek Army under Gen. Alexander Papagos indicates that thus far no serious effort has been made to halt the blitzkrieg directed by Field Marshal General Sigmund Wilhelm List. From almost the first day British sources were insisting upon the unimportance of Salonika, indicating that its fall was expected. Whether the British and Greeks have a plan to defeat the German tactics remains to be seen—and probably will be known very shortly.

#### *Ethiopian Capital Falls*

Addis Ababa fell to British forces Sunday, the day the Germans invaded Yugoslavia and Greece. And as Ethiopia's capital was being taken Ethiopia's emperor, Haile Selassie was entering Debra Markos, which for some time had been resisting his troops. The fall of Massaua, important Red Sea port of Eritrea, virtually completed the conquest of the Italian East African empire, although the Duke of Aosta with some remnant of the Italian forces was in the vicinity of Dessye, and an Italian force was reported at Gondar.

But in Libya the British conquest was rapidly being undone. Derna was taken Tuesday and Axis forces were reported advancing on Tobruk. In a fight at El Machili Wednesday the Germans claimed the capture of six generals and 2,000 prisoners. The British have acknowledged that Lt. Gen. P. Neame, Lt. Gen. Sir Richard O'Connor and Maj. Gen. M. D. Gambier-Perry are missing.

A heavy attack on Berlin Wednesday night, in which the state opera, the Prussian state library, and the Kronprinzen Palais were struck by bombs, was the high point in the air war this week. Emden and Bremen were also struck. In a retaliatory raid Thursday Coventry and Birmingham were bombed heavily by the Germans and London attacked. Coventry had previously been heavily attacked Tuesday. Bristol was struck the night of April 4 and Liverpool and northern Ulster were attacked Monday. The British raided the Kiel naval base for five hours Monday after striking the invasion coast Sunday. The German battleships Scharnhorst and Gneisenau at Brest were reported straddled with British bombs Thursday.

During March 4,259 persons were killed and 5,557 injured in air raids on England, bringing the total since last June to 29,630 killed and 40,930 injured.

The British have revised shipping losses for the week ending March 16 to 146,098 tons—at first reported as 71,000 tons and later as 94,402 tons. The figures for the week ending March 30 were 20 ships of 77,575 tons, of which 13 ships of 58,970 tons were British.

Chicago Daily News, April 12, 1941.

#### **"FREE" CROATIA**

Germany and its satellites are proceeding with the the political dismemberment of Yugoslavia even before its armies have been fully driven from the field. Hungarian troops have occupied the flatlands north of the Danube, which are largely inhabited by Magyars. Obviously, this is Hungary's reward for having served as a base for Germany's Balkan operations. In the far south, just overrun by German armored divisions, a local committee of the Bulgar-feeling element there is agitating for an "independent" Macedonia, in close relations with Bulgaria.

The most ambitious bit of statemaking, however, is that launched at Zagreb on the heels of the German troops. Here a full-fledged government has been established. Proclaiming the existence of a new "independent" Croatia, this regime has issued a manifesto to all Croat soldiers under the Yugoslav colors ordering them to leave and return home.

The true nature of this new government can best be gauged from its leaders. These are Doctor Ante Pavelic, President, and Sladko Kvaternik, Prime Minister. Both of them represent the most extreme section of Croat separatists, embittered by the feuds between Serbs and Croats which have complicated Yugoslavia's political life ever since the composite state was set up two decades ago at the close of the World War. Most of the Croats remained loyal to the ideal of Yugoslav unity, ever though they opposed Serb domination of official and military life, and demanded a larger measure of participation in the State. However, a revolutionary minority, hating the Serbs, conspired for an independent Croatia, and did not hesitate to seek aid from Yugoslavia's foreign enemies, wherever these might be found. From a safe haven abroad, their exiled leaders plotted with Fascist Italy, Nazi Germany, Hungary and the Macedonian terrorist organization known as the I. R. O. M. Indeed, the Croat revolutionists formed a terroristic organization of their own, Ustach, with murder schools abroad where professional assassins were trained. The murder of King Alexander of Yugoslavia at Marseilles, France, in 1934, was committed by a group of these sinister graduates, the actual killer being a Macedonian veteran of the I. R. O. M., though in Ustach service.

Now the Ustach leader is none other than Sladko Kvaternik, while the "brains" of the movement is Doctor Pavelic. Both were convicted by a French court of being accessories to King Alexander's assassination. But they were living in Italy, and Mussolini's government refused the French demand for their extradition to French soil.

Such are the sinister figures who now head "Free Croatia." Obviously, such men do not represent the bulk of the Croat people. Their true leader is Valdimir Matcek, the pious old peasant who recently rallied to the national government and pledged Croat loyalty to the struggle for independence. German-inspired dispatches at first hinted that Doctor Matcek had rallied to the new regime, but the fact that his name nowhere appears in the government is good proof that he has had nothing to do with it. The whole business is little more than axis propaganda. Of course, should Yugoslavia be completely shattered, some grouping of the Croats and their close kinsmen and coreligionists, the Slovenes, might occur. But it

would have to rest upon less shady foundations to have any political vitality.

(Editorial)

Washington Evening Star, April 12, 1941

## HITLER'S BALKAN GAMBLE

BY M. W. FODOR

*Mr Fodor was for years the Vienna correspondent of The Manchester Guardian and The Chicago Daily News and is one of the outstanding authorities on the Balkans. When he assumes the robes of the prophet, he of course does so on his own authority and at his own risk—*

THE EDITORS

"The Balkans are not worth the bones of a single Prussian guardsman," said Bismarck when some of his friends tried to urge him to intervene in the chaotic affairs of Southeastern Europe. Bismarck's picture was on the frontispiece of the single book which constituted the library of Hitler's father and the book undoubtedly shaped the mental development of the boy Adolf. I can see Winston Churchill rubbing his hands with satisfaction when Hitler disregarded his own hero's advice.

If in this connection history was disregarded, it is amazing to note how the mistakes of history are being repeated in other directions. King Boris of Bulgaria decided, as a lesson of the last war, to keep Bulgaria out of this one. But Bulgaria is again on the side of the Germans colossus. The German General Staff, after the last World War, made a thorough study of the causes of Germany's defeat. Hitler may assert for demagogical purposes that Germany was defeated because she was stabbed in the back by democrats, liberals and Jews, but the exacting and scientifically thinking German General Staff came to other conclusions. The two chief reasons for the defeat of 1918, according to these deductions of the German General Staff, were, first, that Germany became engaged in a two-front war, despite the warning of all German strategical experts, and, second, that she wasted too many troops in secondary and tertiary theatres of war, aiding weak allies.

When this war started in September, 1939, Hitler was determined to avoid a two-front war. In November, 1938, I reported to my papers that Ribbentrop had offered a non-aggression pact to Russia, and that as a price for this neutrality in case of a Western European war Russia would get Finland and Estonia, while Germany would take Latvia and Lithuania. So anxious was Hitler to neutralize Russia that he even gave her Latvia and Lithuania. All this to avoid a two-front war!

Many people will say that in this war Germany needs no such huge armies as she did in 1914-18. True. But this time she has no such huge armies at her disposal. As this war has so far been mainly a war of industrial production, Germany, at the beginning of this year, had mobilized only 4,000,000 soldiers. The others were fighting the war in the factories. Of these 4,000,000 men, almost half are engaged in police duty in the occupied countries or are standing vigil on the Russian frontier. The actual fighting forces are far inferior to those of the last war, though they are highly mechanized. (I estimate the German mechanized divisions at twenty.)

Germany will have to split her air force to send an adequate number of planes to the Balkans. Only with the help of the air arm is a blitzkrieg possible. This will give Britain's air force in Western Europe a much better chance against the German airmen than it now possesses. For the duration of the Balkan campaign an invasion of England is probably impossible.

No one can foretell how the campaign against Yugoslavia and Greece will end, but precedents in Finland lead us to believe that sooner or later Germany can conquer Yugoslavia. She conquered Yugoslavia in the last war; but the Yugoslav troops brought to Salonika two years later started an offensive against the Central Powers which was the turning point of the war.

This is the fact which compelled Hitler to disregard the advice of Bismarck and to engage the German armies in the southeast. Hitler regards Churchill as his arch-enemy. And was it not Churchill who tried to create an additional theatre of war for Germany, who tried to stab Germany in the back from the Dardanelles in 1915? And was it not the influence of Churchill which created the Salonika front in 1917-18?

Hitler was faced with a great dilemma. He knew that England could be defeated only at home, and nowhere else. But he feared that if he should attack England this summer, Churchill might again fall upon him in the Balkans. The Germans started an offensive in March, 1918 (which almost brought them to Paris). If they had continued this push, the Western front would probably have been broken. But in the summer of 1918, General Franchet d'Esperey's troops in Salonika started a drive against Bulgaria and the defeat of this week ally brought to a halt the German offensive in the West. In July, 1918, the Allies started an offensive which finally broke Germany's power. But the mortal wound came from Salonika. This was what Hitler had to prevent in the present war.

Prestige was the determining factor. The Yugoslav defiance was a vital blow to that. Yet I believe that Hitler might have overlooked the Yugoslav blow to his prestige, if the United States had not defied him at the same time. Immediate punishment of the American offender was impossible, and so the country which was near had to bear the brunt of his fury.

England's fate is now to a great extent in the hands of Yugoslavia and Greece. If the two are able to withstand Germany until October, Germany has lost the war.

The New Republic, April 14, 1941.

## BATTLE OF THE BALKANS NOT YET ALLIED DISASTER, ELIOT SAYS

**First Round Goes to the Germans, But Blitz Advance Appears Halted.**

BY MAJ. GEORGE FIELDING ELIOT

We have as yet no definite assurance on either of the two main elements of the Balkan operations. (1) Will the British and Greeks be able to hold a stabilized front against German attack? (2) Will the Yugoslav Army be able to keep the field and co-operate with their allies?

But despite the early German successes, won with their usual reckless, headlong plunge for the possession of key points, regardless of losses, we are begin-

ning to see a little light on both these main points. What we now know is encouraging on both scores. I make this statement with all reserve, because of lack of information. However, at the moment this seems to be the picture:

(1) *British-Greek front* The Germans are developing two thrusts directed, in converging directions, toward Phlorina. One, coming by way of Prilep and Bitolj, is striking over the Monastir Pass: the other is coming west from Salonika. There is a hint of a third advance, possibly only a holding attack, going southwest from Salonika toward the Mount Olympus region

#### *R. A. F. Attacks Effective*

The communications and reinforcements for the drives on Phlorina lie well within the scope of British aviation and have been vigorously attacked from the air, apparently with considerable success. In the Monastir Pass in particular the R. A. F. seems to have done well; here the road ascending the pass from the Yugoslav side makes three sharp hairpin turns in succession—an almost ideal target for airmen. A sharp raid by a British armored-car detachment on the south side of the pass resulted in the destruction of a unit of the German truck-carried infantry which form the “exploitation” element of their armored forces.

All this suggests that the British have developed an air strength in this region which for some reason the Germans have been unable to counter, and in consequence the force of the German drive has been considerably reduced. It might even be possible to draw the deduction that though the first onset of the German armored spearheads has gone through on schedule, the Germans are finding the follow-up, or exploitation phase of their system, does not work in the Balkan mountains with the same facility as in France.

#### *Nazis Encounter Difficulties*

Their inability to counter the British air attacks may be due to the British having sprung a sudden local concentration on them by surprise, but is more likely due to the German inability, because of time, terrain, bad weather and local conditions, to establish forward bases for their aviation; also very likely because of German overconfidence in their ability to repeat in the Balkans what they did in France, Norway and Poland. So far, then, there is no suggestion that the Olympus line will not hold, and there are some pretty strong hints that the Germans are encountering unexpected or at least very trying difficulties.

2. *The Yugoslav Army.* The German radio reports hold more than a suggestion of terroristic propaganda in their efforts to portray a Yugoslav state already tottering to its fall, “slashed into sections” and the like. There is nothing from any other source which suggests that the Yugoslavs have lost even one position—with the possible exception of Bitolj—which was included in their original “final defense zone”; and from several sources come reports that a strong Yugoslav counter-attack toward Bitolj and even Skoplje is developing.

#### *Yugoslavs Still in Fight*

Northern Yugoslavia, including the capital, was never supposed to be strongly defended, except by local organizations. The German thrusts toward Belgrade, Niš and

the upper Save were all anticipated, and discounted. The German penetration in the south seems to have been deeper and swifter than was anticipated, but there is increasing evidence that the Yugoslavs still have an army in being, and possess sufficient supplies to keep going for some little time; not, of course, indefinitely.

Meanwhile, the one Yugoslav offensive move which was counted on, the attack on the Italians in Albania, shows signs of developing. The Yugoslavs appear to have crossed the Drin and taken San Giovanni di Medua, one of the chief Italian supply ports. An Istanbul radio dispatch, just in as these words are written, reports the capture of Durazzo by the Yugoslav forces. If this is true the Italian Army in Albania is on the verge of destruction, just as if the Yugoslav thrust toward Bitolj and Skoplje gains any success, the Germans beyond the Monastir Pass are “washed up.”

#### *Not Yet Allied Disaster*

These are large “ifs,” based on scanty and sometimes conflicting information. The point to be emphasized now is that the signs in the Balkans are far from indicating an Allied disaster, the Germans seem to be stopped, the possibility of an Italian disaster exists, and the Yugoslav Army is definitely still to be reckoned with as a fighting force. The Germans may get going again an hour from now and upset all these apparent indications, but at the moment there is hope both for the British-Greek defensive front and the saving to help hold it of a good part of the Yugoslav Army.

In Africa, meanwhile, the German thrust into Cirenaica seems to be a part of a general and well-conceived plan of attack on Britain’s “strategic arch” in the Eastern Mediterranean. It is impossible to judge with what force the Germans are advancing, or how far they will get. British reinforcements are being rushed by air from East Africa, which may be some indication of the urgency of the situation. It is, however, to be remarked that the Germans have not yet taken Tobruk, and that when they do, they must face for every yard they advance beyond it an increasingly difficult water-supply problem which no “blitz” boldness will solve.

#### *Force of Drive Surprising*

The surprising force of the German effort here is said to be due to the Germans having brought over their equipment in ships, their men by air. One is inclined, however, to regard this as an oversimplification. When all is said and done, the conditions of sea transport even under the shadow of the German air power in Sicily are not such as to allow a really large German force to be sent across, or to be supplied in offensive operations after its arrival.

Some supplies have no doubt been accumulated, but these cannot last for long, the period of their use is being timed to coincide with the German advance into Greece and Yugoslavia. Moreover, the Germans—on the same principle which causes them to use middle-aged Landwehr men for truck drivers, hospital attendants and clerical staffs—have unquestionably made use of Italians wherever possible to fill out their organizations, of Italian officers and men as well as Italian equipment of every sort, of which there must have been a good deal on hand.

#### *More Nazi Successes Likely*

There may be further German successes in North Africa, since the British seem to have cut their effectiveness there dangerously low. But there is perhaps food for

thought in the fact that the British Mediterranean fleet now has complete freedom of action in the Eastern Mediterranean. Its co-operation with the Army of the Nile was most fruitful of results against the Italians, and may prove likewise against the Germans with their long, vulnerable, coast-hugging line of communications.

On the whole, then, both for the Balkans and its correlated theater of operations in North Africa, the verdict must be. First round to the Germans, second round doubtful.

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Washington Evening Star, April 14, 1941.

### THIS CHANGING WORLD

#### Observers Feel Allied Setback In Balkans Is Unpleasant, but Won't Affect War's Outcome.

BY CONSTANTINE BROWN

When political considerations interfere with the strategic plans of a general staff, the results are bound to be unpleasant. This appears to have been the chief cause of the Yugoslav defeat. The general staff formulated a definite plan of campaign for the defense of the country at the start of the European war. This plan embodied withdrawal of all main forces to Southern Serbia, leaving only a covering force in the north. The strategy of the Yugoslavs, taking into consideration their limited resources, was sound. But politics intervened. Leaders of the Croats and Slovenes insisted that the territory north of the Danube River be defended and the government which preceded that of Gen. Simovic sent full army corps to strengthen the existing garrisons in Northern Yugoslavia.

The pessimism prevailing in official quarters in Washington since the German occupation of key positions at Scopje and Bitolj continues, despite the effective and brilliant resistance of the Allies to the German attack. Unless the German war machine is one of those things which rushes ahead at a terrific speed when it is freshly wound, then moves only spasmodically when it runs up against a serious obstacle, the position of the Allies remains precarious. Of course, it is pointed out, the Germans have not met serious resistance during any phase of the war. After the first terrific blows were delivered against the Poles, the Dutch, the Belgians and the French, their resistance was haphazard. They fought bravely, but plans and ideas changed every few hours in an attempt to guess what the Germans would do next—and the guess was generally wrong.

#### *Had Definite Defense Plan*

On the present battlefield they are confronted with a definite defensive plan. The Allied high command early foresaw the fall of Salonika and organized the natural position on the Mount Olympus line.

This favors a prolonged and successful Allied defense. But an unpleasant transportation problem remains. The entire Greek nation and soldiers fighting in Greek territory are dependent on sea lanes for everything they need.

The long-range view of most Washington observers is that, while a setback in the Balkans is an unpleasant affair, it will not affect the ultimate outcome of the war. Had the British and their allies succeeded in holding back the axis powers, it would have constituted a major defeat for Hitler. Formation of another war front, with the prospect of the Allies completely knocking out Italy would

have been a dire blow to the Nazis. But while an Allied defeat in the Balkans is tragic, it does not impair Britain's power of resistance.

England fully realizes this and there is a strong possibility that, in the event the tide of battle in Greece turns against the Allies, most of the troops, hardened in fighting the Germans, will be transferred to North Africa to meet the new German menace to the canal.

#### *Successes in Africa*

In Africa the Germans already have had important successes. But as they advance toward the east they are confronted with the serious problem of supply which must reach their troops (mostly mechanized units) from Italian supply bases.

According to the latest reliable reports received here, the British are sending all available reinforcements, including war materials delivered by the United States under the lease-lend bill, to the Near East, the next important theater of operations if Allied-resistance in Greece collapses.

The British general staff seems to think that in event of a defeat in Greece, German forces will enter Thrace and then attempt to reach Asia Minor seeking to reach the Suez Canal by the shortest route through Syria and Palestine.

The German instigated revolution in Iraq is likely to be followed by similar upheavals in other parts of the Near and Middle East. For the present British forces are inadequate for protection of those areas but it is believed that sufficient troops will be sent there for the next few weeks.

In any event, military quarters believe, transfer of the principal theater of operations to the Eastern Mediterranean will greatly relieve pressure on the British Isles and that danger of a blitz against Britain itself has been removed for awhile.

The Washington Evening Star, April 14, 1941.

### BELGRADE

The Germans made use of Easter to seize the thirteenth capital to fall to the Reich since 1936. Belgrade, seat of the government of Yugoslavia, was occupied by Nazi troops yesterday morning. A radio commentator, speaking in Berlin, remembered that it was the Austrian bombardment of that city which started the first World War, July 29, 1914. The Kaiser's armies, he explained, controlled the neighborhood for three years following October 19, 1915. Allied forces, advancing from Salonika, compelled retreat, October 31, 1918—a day which, the official spokesman for Hitler promised, "will never be repeated."

Meanwhile, there is little, if any, question about the ruined condition of the "open town" which, until a week ago, was the peaceful dwelling place of approximately half a million people of at least half a dozen different racial and national stocks. Belgrade, it seems, was not defended against German attacks from the air.

High above the confluence of the Danube and the Sava Rivers still stands the empty citadel which once was white enough and strong enough to give a name—Beograd—to the community it was designed to defend. The epoch to which it belonged has passed. So also perhaps has ended the era with which were identified the cathedral and the university, the national library and the national theater, the new parliament house, the theological seminary and



the commercial academy, the old Turkish kiosk, the royal palace, the botanical garden, the exposition grounds and buildings, the museums of Prince Paul and King Alexander, the zoo, the Monument of Gratitude to France and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier on the hill of Avala.

These were the most interesting features of the metropolis in which Yugoslavia, a newly organized state, was finding a focal center. Men and women of varying origins, cultures, faiths and hopes had been learning how to form a tolerant society to the stability and prosperity of which each would contribute something. The swastika now blots out the liberal experiment. Belgrade is desolate. It is understood that three thousand civilians were killed in the bombardment. Whole streets are reported to have been burned. The residence of the American Minister allegedly was destroyed. With it went no one knows how many humbler homes.

But disaster is nothing novel in the experience of the residents of Belgrade. Their history traces back to the dawn of civilization, when the Roman legions set up a camp at Singidunum. Byzantines, Bulgarians, Hungarians and Turks again and again claimed and took the city only to yield it to more violent demand. The net result is that such occupation as that effected on the Day of Resurrection, 1941, is merely an inconsequential incident when judged from the vantage point of time without limit. Hitler's battalions are only the momentary conquerors of a place where change is so constant as to be institutional, yet where immutability is a convincing reality.

(EDITORIAL)

The Washington Evening Star, April 14, 1941.

## THIS CHANGING WORLD

### Yugoslavs Lose Country, But Prefer Fighting in Exile to Domination.

BY CONSTANTINE BROWN

All news from the Balkans indicates the situation is becoming desperate for the Allies and the end already is in sight.

The Germans are employing the same tactics they used successfully in Flanders—the pincer movement. They hammer at the right and left wing of Allied positions in Northern Greece, gaining small but steady advantages every day. The final push is expected in the course of this week, when sufficient reinforcements have been gathered for that purpose.

The Nazis losses are reported to have been heavy—heavier than during the campaign which ended with the conquest of Western Europe.

Divisions which have been standing-by in Rumania had to be rushed across the Danube and sent across the mountains. These fresh troops—according to the latest reports—have not yet reached the war zone.

Meanwhile it appears the British are taking the necessary precautions of preparing for evacuation from Greece, not only their own forces, but as many of the Greek and Yugoslav troops as can be saved. These troops are being sent to the various ports of Greece to be taken aboard transports. There will be no speedy withdrawal such as Dunkerque, because the line in the mountains can hold the invaders back for a while, and even if broken, there is a second line to protect an eventful withdrawal.

## Concentrate on Piraeus

The Germans are concentrating the fire of their bombers on the principal Greek port of Piraeus. But according to recent reports, the British intend to use the smaller harbors, such as Kalamatia, which are less likely to be under constant bombardment by German planes. These harbors will not accommodate large ships, but troops and war material can be loaded on barges, which are taken to roadsteads. The Allied air force is now concentrating on defending these roadsteads and harbors against dive bombers.

The British and their allies in the Balkans are taking the defeat stoically. The Greeks and the Yugoslavs, who now stand to lose their countries, are determined to continue the war from whatever point possible. It is not the first time the Yugoslavs have had to leave their native soil and fight as exiles. They prefer this to control by a foreign government.

It is pointed out in Yugoslav quarters that had they followed Prince Paul's policies, they still would have been under the heel of the Germans, with the prospect that the Nazi domination would be permanent.

The type of government they would have had is illustrated by the type of men the Germans placed in control of Croatia. Both the head of the new state and his prime minister organized and carried out the assassination of King Alexander of Yugoslavia in 1935.

Dr Pavelic was proven, at the trial of the men who assassinated the King and the French Foreign Minister Barthou who accompanied him on the fatal trip from the docks of Marseille, to be the instigator and the brains of the plot. He was then in the pay of the Italians.

## Kwaternik's 'Glorious' Past

His Prime Minister "General" Sladko Kwaternik has an equally "glorious" past.

Kwaternik was the muscle man in the assassination. He hired the murderers from the Hungarian "killer's nursery" at Yanka Puszt and from Bulgaria. Two were Croats and the other two were Macedonian commitadjis. According to reports one of them, the sure shot, was, before being taken to France, the chauffeur of the Bulgarian Minister to Rome.

Kwaternik took the men across the border personally to Switzerland and also attended to their crossing the border into France. His other associates were waiting for them with the complete plans for a first-class and spectacular murder.

This man—self-styled general—is now the Premier of the new state.

Thus the Croat state is in the hands of an instigator to murder and an executioner.

The Yugoslavs feel that if they had accepted German domination their young King would have been as much a puppet in the hands of Berlin as his cousin, King Michel of Rumania, now is. And the boy King's closest guards would have undoubtedly been his father's assassins.

The Yugoslavs feel that under the circumstances they might just as well take the road of exile. There is no question that the population will suffer more now than if the country had surrendered peacefully. But at the same time it is the rank and file of the population which decided to overthrow the pro-German government, fully aware of the consequences. The Serbian peasants are long suffering and appear to be willing to accept the consequences of the defeat until better times.

The Washington Evening Star, April 16, 1941.



## WHY YUGOSLAVIA STOOD

The Nazis have charged that American pledges caused the Yugoslavs to take their admirable stand against Berlin's demands. Such a charge ignores the manner in which that resistance crystallized. It leaves out of account the popular uprising in Yugoslavia.

Yet some Americans appear impressed by the Nazi version of the Yugoslav crisis. Contantin Fotich, Yugoslav Minister in Washington, has taken note of this credulity, remarking that it is reflected even in the Congressional Record. In behalf of verity, and his own countrymen's courage, patriotism and morality, he has issued a public denial of the Nazi charge.

"My people made this choice consciously," he declares, pointing out that the revolt was not the result of a secret conspiracy of army generals but "originated among the masses." And he adds, "They accepted their destiny fully aware that by paying the gruesome price of sacrifice they are rendering a service to Great Britain and Greece, and assuring for themselves an honorable place in history. Is it not fair to give them credit for that much at least?"

Lovers of freedom will spare such of its champions as the Yugoslavs the insult of believing Nazi estimates of them.

(EDITORIAL)

April 16, 1941.

## NAZI PRESSURE

During the first few days of the Nazi blitzkrieg in the Balkans the Nazi war machine drove into Greece and Yugoslavia with the same fantastic speed it had previously manifested in the Low Countries and France last year. Despite difficulties of the terrain, which were expected to hold up but which did not succeed in holding up the invaders, Salonika was captured in the first week of the struggle. Then the hopes of the Allies began to revive when it became clear that the fury of the German assault had not demoralized either the Yugoslav or Greek forces who had been first to bear the brunt of the fighting. Reports began to filter out of the war zone that the Yugoslav army had reformed its lines, and, far from being shattered, was even proving itself capable of carrying out offensive action in certain localities. The Greeks and British, for their part, established what was declared to be a strong defensive line centering on Florina. It is now apparent, however, that the line was not strong enough, but was in fact an indefensible salient. And now the Nazis have taken that strategic center, which also happens to be one of the largest cities in Greece. In turn, this development, plus the German penetration into southern Serbia, has made inevitable the withdrawal of Greek forces from the Koritsa sector, which the Italians have reoccupied.

In the meantime the situation in the Yugoslav sector remains obscure. There the German plan, as it has unfolded, has obviously been to separate and isolate the various Yugoslav units and, by preventing them from operating together, to cut them to pieces. How successful that plan has been is not entirely clear. The Germans assert that the Yugoslav army as a fighting force has practically ceased to exist. Rumors from Rome and Budapest, neither of which is a very reliable news center, go so far as to say that Yugoslavia has asked for an armistice. Yugoslav quarters in Vichy, however, insist that the great bulk of the Yugoslav army is still in the field and is fighting on with renewed determination. What

the picture will be when the smoke clears is not plain, but for ourselves we are not prepared to believe that the Yugoslavs, with their fighting tradition, will so quickly throw up the sponge. In fact, the revelation that a spark of freedom exists in the Balkans is still the saving grace in an otherwise black situation, for such a spark can never be extinguished.

(EDITORIAL)

The Washington Post, April 16, 1941

## ANTE PAVELICH

### Croatian Quisling and Terrorist.

BY ANDRE VISSON

THE FIRST CASUALTY of the current war was the Yugoslav King Alexander, assassinated on November 9, 1934, at Marseille. And the man who sent the killers to Marseille is Dr. Ante Pavelich, for whom Hitler and Mussolini had reserved the part of Croatian Quisling in the Yugoslav drama.

So, we must not be too surprised today, when the Axis and its satellites are brutally imposing their domination on the Balkans, to find together once more all these evil forces which seven years ago worked together preparing King Alexander's assassination.

ALEXANDER was assassinated by a Bulgaro-Macedonian terrorist, Vlada G. Chernozemsky. Chernozemsky's accomplices were Croatian terrorists, members of the Croat terrorist organization, Ustasha. Since the signing of the agreement of April 21, 1929, at Sofia, the Croat and Bulgar terrorists cooperated, sponsored by Italy and backed by Hungary.

Chernozemsky, known in the terrorist circles under the surname of Vlada the Chauffeur, was the chauffeur of Mr. Vlkov, Bulgar Minister to Rome.

Chernozemsky and his accomplices, who had been trained in the terrorist camp of Janka-Pusta, Hungary, were sent to Marseille by Dr. Ante Pavelich, who since 1929 had been governing the Croat terrorist camp of Borgotaro, Italy. Dr. Ante Pavelich, who is today the "gauleiter" of the "Independent State of Croatia," was the chief organizer of the Marseille murders. And Slavko Kvaternik, one of his chieftains, who is today the commander in chief of the Croatian army, which in plain English means assistant chief of the Gestapo, acting in Croatia, fled France after Marseille's crime to Germany, where he had established his headquarters since the Nazis came to power.

But if, officially, Ante Pavelich and Slavko Kvaternik were, with Gustav Perchetz and other Croat terrorists, the principal organizers of the Marseille murders, there were others behind the scenes who financed these men and helped them realize their plans.

THE MORAL SPONSORSHIP, the financial help and the protection of administration given then to the Croat terrorists by Italian and Hungarian authorities were a public secret. It was known in all European capitals that Signor Flavio Suvich, while he had been the under-secretary of Italian foreign office, had put great hopes on the Croat terrorist action in destroying Yugoslavia from within and that he was in permanent contact with Pavelich.

But who exactly are these Croat terrorists, Ante Pavelich and Slavko Kvaternik, who reappear today on the tragic European stage under the sponsorship of Germany and Italy?

Among the stooges Hitler managed to find in all occupied countries—with the exception of Poland—Pavelich and his assistants are, perhaps the most repugnant.

Ante Pavelich was born 48 years ago in the home of a Croat peasant in the Lika Province. Lika is one of the most romantic but also one of the most poverty-stricken districts of Croatia. Its peasants have to leave it in order to make a living, and many Croat immigrants in the United States are from Lika. Lika's peasants have, moreover, been for centuries traditional rebels against any authority and were often leaving their native villages, fleeing to the neighboring mountains, where they fought the gendarmes and the soldiers. These rebels called themselves Ustashi.

PAVELICH studied law at the Universities of Zagreb and Vienna and served in the Austrian army during World War I. After the war he joined circles of Croatian intelligentsia who were particularly disillusioned by the war, by its aftermath, and who felt embittered against everybody.

The Croat peasants, who constitute 90 per cent of the Croatian population, managed to maintain during the centuries of foreign rule their national individuality. And their leaders, from Bishop Strossmayer down to Stephan Radich and Vladimir Machek, guided them on the way to union with the Serbs and the Slovenes.

Part of Croat intelligentsia, however, lost contact with the people and adopted the German "Weltanschauung." These Croat intellectuals suffered from an inferiority complex, as they considered the Germans, and even the Magyars, their superiors. On the other hand, they hated the Serbs, who, less civilized than the Croats, became after World War I leaders of Yugoslavia. They hated Western democracies who helped the Serbs to create this Yugoslavia. They hated the Jews, who had taken a very important part in Croatia's trade and liberal professions. They despised their own peasants and they hated the leaders of these peasants for having concluded an agreement with the Serbs and the Slovenes.

The leader of this embittered and degenerated Croat intelligentsia was Ante Starcevic, who under the Austrian regime invented a theory according to which all the Slavs were of Croat descent. The Serbs, according to Starcevic, were merely Croats who had adopted the Greek Orthodox creed.

ANOTHER PROMINENT member of these Croatian circles, a priest, Cherubin Segvich, invented quite a different theory. He said the Croats were not even Slavs—they were Goths who had adopted the language of their inferior eastern neighbors.

These fantastic and contradictory theories flattered the Croat intellectuals, who felt they could not obtain on a social and national scale that which they were entitled to.

In 1929 when King Alexander established a dictatorship in order to save Yugoslavia's unity, Pavelich fled abroad, first to Vienna and then to Italy. It was in Italy that he founded, with Italian support, the Ustasha terrorist organization and directed its action against Yugoslavia. Between 1929 and 1934 this organization perpetrated 21 murders in Yugoslavia and tried in 1931 to raise up the Lika peasants against the Belgrade government.

During all these years Dr. Vladimir Machek and all other Croat peasant leaders, while fighting the Belgrade government in order to obtain autonomy for Croatia, were constantly condemning the separatist and terrorist action of Ante Pavelich and his chieftains, who were openly serving foreign interests.

AT EASTER, 1937, when Prince Paul, pursuing his policy of appeasement, accepted Mussolini's proposal to

sign a nonaggression and friendship pact with Italy, one of the secret clauses of this pact provided for the extradition by Italy of all Croat terrorists. Pavelich and his chief accomplices remained, however, in Italy. It seems that the Rome government insisted on an exception in their favor.

Today Pavelich and Kvaternik have returned to Croatia, both pushed and protected by German and Italian rifles. They will hardly find as their supporters more than 5 or 6 per cent among the Croats. And it appears that among the Croats. And it appears that among the 650,000 Croats living in the United States hardly more than 65,000 or 75,000 can be described as sympathizers with Pavelich's totalitarian and pro-Axis regime. But so long as the Gestapo, reinforced by the Axis' tanks and planes, reigns over Croatia, Pavelich, the Croatian Quisling, who since 1929 had openly served first Italy and then the Axis, will continue to serve his foreign masters, who paid him well during all these years and who saved him from the death penalty in 1934.

The Washington Post, April 17, 1941.

### **SALONIKA: PREY OF EMPIRE**

BY J. EMLYN WILLIAMS

"The Germans have chosen to pit themselves against the most resolute and bravest nation in the Balkans in declaring war on Yugoslavia. Men who served with the Serbians during the World War will never forget their bravery, endurance, and patience, under indescribable conditions. In 1914 they did magnificent work in defeating the Austrian army, when not only men but even women and children pulled guns and fought the enemy back. Then, when retreat was inevitable, rather than surrender, which was considered dishonorable, they made their way through Albanian snows, thousands perishing by the way, and the survivors (among them old King Peter I) reached Salonika, hungry and half clothed.

"Many of those who as young boys went through that experience are again fighting for their country. They know what war and exile mean, but have deliberately chosen the hardships rather than submit to German domination. With their bravery and courage goes a deep conviction of the religious nature of their mission. The writer will never forget the description of the Battle of Kumanova (in Balkan wars) given him by a Serb at Vertekop, which ended with the words:

"During the combat we all saw St. Sava robed in white and seated in a white chariot drawn by white horses leading us on to victory."

In the shadow of black, forbidding mountains in the Pass of Prile is the legendary tomb of Marko Kralievitch, the great Serbian hero whom the Serbs today still hope will be astride his famous steed, "Chartaz," leading them to victory, however long and arduous the path may be.

The Greek front was a sort of side show during the World War, yet it was on that front that the enemy first submitted, and today this front affords the British and Allied troops their first opportunity of gaining a foothold on the European Continent."

The Christian Science Monitor, April 19, 1941.

### **BALKAN APPRAISAL**

Whether or not the southern tip of the Balkans is going to turn into another Dunkirk, the British are

being prepared for just such an eventuality. The question thus becomes pertinent whether the intervention was worth the dreadful price in the blood of thousands of gallant Greeks and Australians and British. To effect a lodgment in Greece the British had to withdraw their men and to abandon hard-won positions in North Africa. And they have seen the Nazis, as a result, retake position after position on the North African coast and even threaten Egypt. Britain may have risked a collapse throughout the Balkans, indeed, which may browbeat the Turks to accommodate the Nazis for their Near Eastern designs. No wonder the British themselves must be questioning the wisdom of the tactics which seem to be promoting another Dunkirk.

Only the historian, of course, can answer the question. He it was who redeemed even the Dardanelles adventure of the last war which was for many years dubbed "Churchill's folly." It was at last shown that, if the British had hung on a little while longer, they could have broken through to what was then called Constantinople. In the Balkan adventure, however, the plus signs are still nebulous. Yet surely what is called the Churchill-Eden-Dill plan (Sir Archibald Wavell seems to have been a dissident) may have had some justification. It was of the highest political importance, for one thing, to blow up the spark of revolt in Yugoslavia, if only to insure Yugoslav membership in the anti-New Order brigade. And this spark has not been extinguished, despite the end of formal fighting in that country. With Yugoslavia inspired to risk war, moreover, the Greeks were encouraged to take on the mechanized Nazis as well as the Italians. More importantly, Hitler's plans have been upset. His machine depends upon exact timing, and it is geared up to a schedule which depends upon the Balkans for smooth provisioning. Undoubtedly the timetable and the supply routes have been disrupted, and it is an expert guess that they may have been retarded for three months, whether or not the Balkans have to be evacuated.

Just as at Dunkirk, the Balkans represent no debacle of the human spirit. The Yugoslavs, caught in the first brunt of the blitzkrieg, will live to fight again, and in the present trial they need to be reassured that they have played and are still playing their part in what Minister Fotitch calls the "common struggle." The Greeks? How can admiration be expressed for this people with an immortal name who have given a new name to heroism? As for the Britons and Australians, they have added luster to their great and glorious heritage. Their deeds quicken the pulse and make free men who are profiting by their sacrifice humble even in rendering tribute to their everlasting bravery. If any fighting men can pull victory out of the jaws of defeat, they are the ones to do it, and they may yet avoid another Dunkirk, despite the gloom from London.

(EDITORIAL)

The Washington Post, April 20, 1941.

## YUGOSLAVIA STANDS AS SYMBOL OF HEROISM

WASHINGTON, April 21 (AP).—The Yugoslav people will carry on the fight against the Axis despite the defeat of their armies in Yugoslavia, Constantin Fotitch, the Yugoslav Minister, declared after a conference with Sumner Welles, Undersecretary of State.

"The last two weeks," Mr. Fotitch said, "are only the first phase of Yugoslav participation in the common struggle of democratic countries for the principles of civilization. The Yugoslav King, Government and people will

continue the fight imposed upon us by the Axis powers."

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BY R H MARKHAM

*Balkan Correspondent of The Christian Science Monitor, who is now in this country*

Yugoslavia has ended its brief existence—for the time being. It was founded in December, 1918, and disappeared with the capitulation of the Yugoslav Army in April, 1941.

In all the annals of men, there has been a Yugoslavia only 268 months. Poland has come and gone several times; so has Czechia, Bulgaria, Greece, and Lithuania.

But Yugoslavia was a new state—so far, it has made just one brief flight across the stage of human events.

During all of those 22 years of existence it faced the extremely formidable handicap of history. In America, historical forces seem frail, because Americans organized their state in a new country, where history has not crowned the hills with breastworks nor sent unseen armies charging down all the highways. But the Yugoslavs found history entrenched in every valley, master of every mountain range, singing in every folk song, glowing or glowering from every folk costume and reverberating from every church bell.

The rather primitive, disunited, not well-disciplined South Slavs tried in two short decades to undo the work of two full millenniums. It is no surprise and no cause for despair that at the first attempt circumstances have foiled them.

The Yugoslav people or peoples are not new, of course. Their forebears resided in those southeast European valleys and mountains for 1,000 years, some much longer. That area, from the time of the earliest Caesars, has been a scene of bitter conflicts. In few other lands have such abysmal enmities persisted so long.

The reader will recall that two of the greatest centers in the ancient world were Greece and Rome. He also will remember that the whole civilized world was polarized about these two places and split into a Western and Eastern Empire.

The fissure, caused by that split, passed directly across Yugoslavia. Half of the country became and remained Byzantine; half became and remained Roman. Even today, the Yugoslavs see that difference in their food, clothes, customs, laws, and ways of life. Julius Caesar of the West and Constantine of the East still live in those Yugoslav hills.

One may recall that about 1,000 years ago the Christian Church divided into two sections, the eastern and the western. The dividing line passes directly across Yugoslavia. That separation happened a very long time ago, but is almost as fresh as though it were of yesterday. It is proclaimed anew each day. It shouts from the hats and robes of the priests, from every religious service, from the names they give their babies.

Ancient history also shrieks from every Yugoslav daily paper, from the very script in which it is written. The centuries gave half the kingdom one kind of letters; the other half, another kind.

To all this must be added the fact that the two most remarkable sets of rulers in European history also cut Yugoslavia squarely in two. One was the Hapsburgs; the other, the Turkish Sultans. Each of these dynasties in the course of more than half a millennium left impressions that have so far proved indelible. It is quite probable that the Hapsburgs were the most powerful family

that ever exercised domination in Europe. They created a very distinct way of life.

This writer believes that without any map or guide he could tell from costumes, homes, market places, fields, food, greetings, and games whether or not any town he was visiting had been in the Hapsburg Empire. He also could tell whether the town had, within recent decades, been under the Sultan's rule. These are two different worlds. Yugoslavia was divided between them.

In addition to all these cardinal differences, there were a hundred little sources of historical enmity and friction. So the Yugoslavs had to overcome enormous difficulties and do it very quickly. Their State has vanished from the earth—for the present. Their attempt at democratic co-operation has failed temporarily.

It was one of the grand ventures of modern history and deserves a number of comments. The first is that Yugoslavia was not an artificial organization, not the arbitrary concoction of a few statesmen at Versailles. On the contrary, Yugoslavia formed itself. It was an indigenous growth, just like the United States. From the landing of the first American colonists until the adoption of the Constitution approximately 200 years passed. It took our fathers two centuries to work out the new State. Of course, France played a vital role in the process, but essentially the formation of America was an American act.

Likewise, Yugoslavia was the fruit of the long, heroic efforts of the Yugoslav people. They had been working and fighting toward that for 114 years.

They were not much more divided than the early American colonists. If they had been free from outside attack, they might have succeeded. The attempt to gather the Yugoslavs into a united independent state was the same kind of noble venture as the formation of a free, united America. There is less justification for Italian and German domination over the South Slavs than for British domination over Americans.

Now a word regarding Yugoslav democracy. It is easy for stone throwers to throw stones at that. But striving toward ideals is a much more vital act than failing to reach them. Yugoslavia deserves credit for daring to try a very hard, high road.

From the time of Alexander the Great until about 1880 there was practically no democracy whatever in the Balkans. The Balkan peoples were looked upon as European waifs. Their land was dominated by Roman emperors, Byzantine despots, barbarian conquerors, Turkish tyrants, Austrian and Hungarian feudal lords, and for two millenniums enjoyed no self-government.

Yet the Serbs, coming out from under the Sultans, the Croats, emerging from Hungarian feudalism, the Slovenes, freeing themselves from Austrian absolutism, dared to try democratic methods. And until the very end, they held to that ideal. They resolutely rejected both Nazism and Fascism. Their desire was government by the people and for the people. They made a magnificent effort to attain what Lincoln fought a war to preserve. They defied empires and millenniums. Even with their mistakes and failure they deserve the commendation of Lincoln's fellow-citizens.

Now, one naturally asks: Were the Serbs wise in defying Hitler. This question will be debated for hundreds of years. Historians still dispute as to whether Athens was wise in opposing Philip, the invader 23 centuries ago.

This Serbian opposition to Herr Hitler caused the destruction of Yugoslavia and brought dire destitution. But even if Belgrade had continued in its acquiescence to Herr

Hitler, Yugoslavia would have been destroyed as an independent state. The Nazis would have become its absolute masters. They would have placed their agents in every place of power. Austria acquiesced and was wiped out. Czechoslovakia acquiesced and was torn to pieces. Rumania acquiesced and is a wretched vassal, shorn of all power and all honor. Hungary acquiesced and is Herr Hitler's retainer.

The Serbs are the kind of people who succumb fighting and not fawning. They first met the invading Turk in the fourteenth century. They first defied Sultan's masters in the nineteenth century. They, first of all the south-east European people—except the Greeks—refused simply to place their heads in Nazi yokes. As the centuries pass, the Serbs will sing of this defiance. All succeeding Serbian generations will rejoice that their fathers in 1941 dared defy oppressors. And men who love freedom, during all the coming ages, will think of the Serbs as they do of the Spartans at Thermopylae.

Let him who knows whether Socrates was wise in not running away, say whether the Serbs were wise in refusing to say "Heil Hitler."

April 21, 1941.

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### EYEWITNESS TELLS UNCENSORED STORY OF GERMAN HORROR IN YUGOSLAVIA

Editor's Note—Robert St. John, Associated Press correspondent stationed in Belgrade when the German Army struck into Yugoslavia, tells in his first dispatch since the Palm Sunday invasion of paralyzing blows by the Luftwaffe. St. John has been in the thick of Balkan events since the outbreak of war in Europe.)

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BY ROBERT ST. JOHN

SOMEWHERE IN MONTENEGRO WITH THE REMNANTS OF THE YUGOSLAV ARMY (Via Athens, Greece), April 16.—(Delayed).—(AP).—Mass German air attacks that killed at least 10,000 persons in Belgrade alone and turned Yugoslavia's principal cities into smoking shambles struck the paralyzing blows opening the Balkan war.

Men, women and children lay by the hundreds in the debris of their homes after concentrated Nazi bombing attacks on cities.

These civilians were ordered by their government not to clog the roads by wild flight, hampering the military, as refugees did in France, but to die on their thresholds if necessary. And there they died.

#### *Rode Behind Troops*

For nine days I rode across Yugoslavia behind the lines, watching the army try vainly with rifles and oxen-drawn artillery to repel the overwhelming mechanized force of Hitler's panzer divisions and screaming Stuka bombers.

Almost from the first hour of the German invasion, the army was without communications. One division seldom knew what the one next to it was doing.

Individually, the Serbian forces fought with great bravery, and reported inflicting heavy losses on the Germans. In one day's attack the military claimed destruction of 200 Nazi tanks.

In spite of the furious resistance, however, the German wedges bit deeper into the country and the fighting became hopeless.

### *Croats Revolted*

I say the Serbian army fought—because in traveling about I have seen many Croatian deserters, and in the critical hours of the fighting officials announced the Croats had revolted in the north.

I was in Belgrade the morning the German air force attacked. The citizens, who had not yet learned the nation was at war, poured into the streets when the sirens screamed and the bomber squadrons roared overhead. They stood and stared curiously up at the planes and did not take shelter—though there weren't enough shelters for all.

It was a massacre. At least 10,000 died in the capital alone. In one square I counted more than 200 bodies after the first morning raid.

Almost at the start the water supply failed and huge fires raged unchecked until the city was mantled with a heavy smoke pall.

### *Legations Destroyed*

The United States, British and Greek legations were among the first buildings destroyed, along with most of the government quarters.

Bombers swept over in waves for two days until the city was a shattered, flaming shambles.

With several companions, I followed the government toward the interior. We slept in ditches and barns, and lived on handouts from the hospitable peasants who refused to accept our money.

Nazi bombers strafed villages and roads.

We arrived in Sarajevo in time to meet another air blitzkrieg. This city, where the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand marked an event leading to the World War, was blasted and burned to ruins.

### *Bazaar in Flames*

The flimsy, crowded wooden buildings of the Bazaar in this "most Oriental city in Europe" were turned into a flaming mass by the first incendiaries, and smoke rose toward the towering mountains from the burning minarets of the many Moslem churches.

Heading toward the Adriatic from Sarajevo we reached Montenegro. Here we found army leaders putting down an abortive fifth column uprising. Traitors were lined up against a wall and shot.

By the time we reached the Adriatic coast it was apparent that further Serbian resistance would be confined to guerrilla warfare.

Monday, April 21, 1941

### **187 SERB PILOTS SAFE IN RUSSIA**

#### **Soviet Consents to Aid for Greece.**

VICHY, France, April 22 (U.P.)—Yugoslavian informants asserted today that 187 of their army's planes had landed safely in Russia and that the crews hoped to fly on to aid the allies in Greece.

Most of the planes landed at Kiev and Vinnitsa after flying over Rumania, the informants said.

They added that the Russians had not interned the Yugoslavian airmen and intimated that if the crews flew the planes to Greece it would be with Russia's consent.

ZURICH, Switzerland, April 22 (U.P.)—The Athens radio was heard broadcasting in the Serb and Croat languages a statement of the Green admiralty that two

Yugoslavian submarines had escaped from the harbor of Kattaro and had broken through Italian mine fields in the Straits of Otranto to join the British-Greek fleet in the eastern Mediterranean.

Already the two submarines have participated in large-scale operations, the broadcaster said.

Yugoslavia had six submarines at the start of the German invasion.

Washington Times-Herald, April 23, 1941

### **300,000 TO 400,000 YUGOSLAVS STILL HOLDING OUT, VICHY HEARS**

VICHY, France, April 22 (AP)—Yugoslav diplomatic sources said tonight that five Yugoslav armies numbering from 300,000 to 400,000 men were successfully holding out in the center of the country against German and Italian attacks.

The territory in their control was said to be roughly a quadrangle bounded on the east by a line parallel with the Belgrade-Nis Railway, on the west by Foca and Pec.

It was explained that only the First and Fourth Yugoslav armies capitulated in the north, while the rest withdrew to a compact square. Eight thousand troops just tried to break through to the south, but were repelled, according to the same account.

### **YUGOSLAV SHIP SEIZED**

NEW YORK, April 22 (AP)—The Rome radio reported late today in a broadcast heard by N. B. C. that Italian marines in Shanghai had taken over the Yugoslav freighter Tomislav, 5,387 tons, at the captain's request after British naval officers tried to force him to sail for Hongkong.

A dispatch direct from Shanghai said only that the Italians had seized the steamer, anchored in the Wangpoo below Shanghai.

### **BRITISH SECRET SERVICE UNDERSTIMATED POWER OF HITLER'S BALKAN ARMY, OBSERVER IS TOLD**

BY DANIEL DELUCE

*Associated Press Staff Writer*

*The following dispatch is from Daniel Deluce, Associated Press correspondent who left Greece in a fisherman's boat last week-end and sent from Turkey the first indications of the extent of the British disaster in Greece.*

IZMIR (Smyrna), Turkey, April 23.—To 8,000,000 Greeks the German victory in Greece is as tragic as any ever conceived by their great playwrights of classical days Euripides, Aeschylus and Sophocles.

To the modern Greeks, the entry of Germany into Balkan conflict was the intervention of Fates as inexorable as those depicted in "The Oresteia."

It was intervention which, the Greeks felt, snatched away at the last moment a victory won by blood and pain over the Italian legions which swept in from the north last fall.

Allied blunders and misunderstandings played their part in the bitter drama. The Yugoslavs, who planned to send an army toward Salonika as soon as war broke, never carried it out. **Croats fought** in defense of Serbia, Serbs

were sent to defend Croatia. The British intelligence service underestimated the strength of Germany's Balkan army I was reliably told.

Every Greek regimental headquarters on the Albanian front from Chimara to Pogradetz had planned the spring offensive which was to shove the Italians back out of Albania.

"We will throw everything into it, all our men up to 40, all our guns," Greek commanders told me before Germany marched.

Thousands of wounded in base hospitals at Koritza, Ioannina and Arta prayed for speedy recovery so they could fight in the "last battle."

#### *Offensive Stillborn*

Twelve divisions of the finest Greek fighters—hardy mountaineers of Epirus and Peloponnesus and tough Crete Islanders—were ranged along the crest-shaped front for an all-out attack expected to sweep the Italians from Tepeleni, Berat and Elbasan.

They looked forward to the zero hour as eagerly as a champion football team anticipates the kick-off. But the offensive was stillborn.

Heartbroken generals tore up their plans when Hitler launched his men and machines across the Yugoslav frontier. Sensing the Yugoslav collapse before it occurred, the Greek commanders foresaw the impossibility of maintaining their northwestern line, and they gave the order to withdraw in order.

Not all obeyed. The brilliant Maj. Maniakes stayed with a suicide squad in concrete blockhouses the Greeks had built beside Lake Ohrid and calmly awaited the enemy advance over a field planted with 3,000 land mines.

#### *Reluctant Withdrawal*

Two nights earlier, in stocking feet to avoid noise, he had escorted me to within 200 yards of Italian Alpini trenches and joked about the "surprise party" that waited them.

Indomitable junior officers held Trebecina Heights while khaki battalions marched back past Balibani (where a German Stuka had been shot down early in March weeks before official Nazi intervention) past Klisura, Premeti and Pantalonia. All these towns had been won only a few weeks before at the point of the bayonet in fierce winter battles.

On heights overlooking Tepeleni, husky Evzones reluctantly shouldered dismantled light artillery, and with downcast eyes joined the Greek columns that marched painfully toward the rear.

Koritza and Argirogastro, twin symbols of Greek military prowess, were abandoned without a shot in a withdrawal executed with the precisions of a peace-time maneuver—but with far deeper emotion.

Peasant soldiers cursed Mussolini and Hitler with all the trooper's traditional vehemence.

"If we live will those devils send us away to slavery in Italy and Germany?" they asked.

#### *Morale Never Faltered*

There was no collapse of morale as in Poland and France. Commanders who could easily have fled to the coast and embarked for islands protected by the British fleet stayed with their troops to the end.

Volunteer nurses remained at field hospitals until the last wounded man was safely moved to the rear.

The devotion to duty seemed to be in inverse proportion to the growing disaster.

This was the climax of hellenic tragedy which also encompassed a British expeditionary force of somewhere under 100,000 Australians, New Zealanders, Britons and Scots—a climax evolved from the earlier scenes of the Balkan drama as inevitably as though one of the ancient masters had plotted it.

It has the tragic mistakes of men, the diplomatic and military miscues of Belgrade and London and Cairo, the futile and bitter internecine strife of the Croats and the Serbs who refused to bury their antipathies even while the German panzers were smashing across Southern Yugoslavia to Bitolj.

As early as January, Serbian generals had talked of sending as many as 60 divisions of the Yugoslav army of 1,250,000 toward Salonika as soon as the war started, but none ever got there.

#### *British Intelligence Failed*

Outmoded mobilization orders were revised, and the Serbs were sent north to help defend Croatia; the Croats south to fight in a Serbia for whose inhabitants they bore no affection.

Harried by Fifth Columnists and ceaseless air raids the Serbs waged a hopeless rear guard fight in the retreat to Bosnia while in the south the Croats were overwhelmed at Bitolj.

The Greeks and the Yugoslavs hastily reorganized their lines at the pass south of Bitolj, but the strength of the German army in the Balkans had been underestimated, I have been reliably informed, by the British Middle-East command at Cairo.

There, the number of Germans in southeast Europe had been reckoned at a lower figure than that supplied by the British intelligence service operating in Greece.

Until the death of Premier John Metaxas of Greece, the Athens government desperately attempted to stave off German intervention by suppressing or ignoring German aid to the Italians in Albania and German intrigue designed to undermine the strong pro-British sentiments of the Greek army.

#### *Await End With Fatalism*

The now-suicide Premier Alexandros Korizis, British foreign secretary Eden and King George of Greece contracted for the British expeditionary force about March 2, long after the Germans had begun their great military infiltration into the Balkans.

Thereafter, as the Anzacs and Britons steamed into Piraeus and marched north, the Greek masses realized that their homeland was to be a battlefield for the Axis-British war.

This they awaited with the fatalism of their ancestors. A frequent comment was:

"No matter who wins Greece will be destroyed. Wasn't it enough that we should defeat Italy? Why couldn't we be left alone to finish the Italians in Albania, then live in peace?"

### **THE GREEK TRAGEDY**

There can be no discounting the magnitude or the significance of the victory which Hitler has won in the Balkans. In less than three weeks his panzer divisions have overrun two additional countries and made themselves masters of another strategically important corner of Europe. The Greeks fought with bravery worthy of their highest traditions. The small British Empire force which



went to their aid performed prodigies of valor. But once again personal bravery unsupported by adequate weapons proved no match against tanks and dive bombers. Again and again the Greeks and British fighting a rear-guard action after the Germans had broken through the Monastir Gap, found it necessary to reform their lines, each time closer to the sea. Being heavily outnumbered both in man power and materiel, the Allied forces could not stabilize the front at any point for any length of time. The western armies, hopelessly separated from the main forces in the Thermopylae area surrendered when their supplies began to run out. Organized resistance to Axis power will soon be at an end in the Greek Peninsula, although it may continue, as it is continuing in Yugoslavia, in guerrilla form.

Hitler has his victory. He had hoped to achieve it without fighting. The refusal of the Yugoslavs and Greeks to bow the knee to his threats, although they realized the tragic fate that was in store for them as a result of refusing, made such a bloodless triumph impossible. Hitler has imposed his will on them nonetheless, although it meant the expenditure of blood and treasure and the partial ruin of a region that has formed part of Germany's Lebensraum.

Despite the disaster that befell first the Yugoslav and now the Greek and British forces in the Balkans, it cannot be assumed that the struggle even in that corner of the world is over. The flight of the Yugoslav monarch to the Near East and of the Greek King to Crete makes it clear that the struggle will go on even as in one way or another it continues to go on in Norway and the Netherlands and other parts of German-occupied Europe. To make the triumph he has won in the Balkans conclusive, Hitler must first overcome the resistance of Great Britain. If he fails to do that he will, by his very victories, have given hostages to fortune. For if the British survive, and they continue to manifest a magnificent will to survive, the feeling of hopelessness that the Yugoslav-Greek-British debacle in the Balkans has aroused in various quarters will subside as a similar mood subsided after the even more catastrophic fall of France. As long as Britain is unconquered every subject people remains a liability for the Third Reich.

The major struggle now, as before Hitler's spring campaign, is that taking place in the Atlantic. It is in this struggle that we must focus our attention. It is in this struggle that our most effective aid can be given. And with adequate American aid that battle, the really crucial one of the war, can be won by the British and their allies.

(EDITORIAL)

The Washington Post, April 2, 1941.

### **IF WE FAIL TO ACT** **On The Defense Of This Hemisphere.**

BY BARNET NOVER

Americans will be well-advised to give careful attention to the bitter debate raging in Great Britain over the Allied debacle in Greece. For if our defeatists and isolationists have their way we may, at a not too distant time in the future, be hearing the same cries and lamentations regarding this country's failure to provide adequate support for a nation whose security we had guaranteed. Only we shall be substituting the name of, say, Uruguay, for Greece, or Brazil for Yugoslavia.

It is being said that Great Britain should have never come to the assistance of Greece or, having found it necessary to live up to her obligations, to have seen to it that sufficient assistance was rendered to prevent such a catastrophe as has occurred. This question can be debated particularly since, had Britain refused to help Yugoslavia and Greece, Hitler would have been able to acquire without fighting what he had to pay for in blood and treasure.

The Washington Post, April 25, 1941

### **STILL FIGHTING**

The report that 300,000 Yugoslavs are still fighting Hitler shows that capitulation is not in the Yugoslav vocabulary. The story of Yugoslavia's brief resistance is still clouded in darkness. Hitler, no doubt, meant it to be. Having been frustrated in his design to absorb Yugoslavia (and Greece) without fighting, he tried to do the next best thing, which was to present to the world a decomposed Yugoslavia. Nobody who knows anything about the Serbs will accept the picture Yugoslavia collapsed so quickly because not only was there no common strategy with the British (Mr. Eden and Gen. Dill were not allowed to visit Belgrade by Prince Paul's government), but there was no Yugoslav strategy. The political necessity of having to station troops on the Croatian and Slovenian borders overbore the military commonsense of concentrating in southern Yugoslavia. An army so dispersed could not beat back the Nazi juggernaut, couldn't even slow it down. But there must have been hundreds of local actions in which the Serbs behaved with all their traditional gallantry. The tale will be told when the censors have gone the way of Nazidom, and the report that there are 300,000 Yugoslavs still harassing the Nazis shows that it will be a stirring tale.

April 25, 1941

(Editorial)

### **ON THE WAR FRONTS**

#### **Interpretations and Outlook.**

BY DAVID MAXWELL WEIL

The Greek campaign signified one thing to the British and another to the Germans. For the English, it was a chance to strike at the vitals of the Reich, it was a chance to create a front from which one day a successful invasion could have been launched. For the Germans the battle of Greece was an effort to dislodge the English. If the English had won in the Balkans they would have been close to winning the war. The Germans have won and, yet, they are still not in sight of victory.

The acquisition of Greek harbors and the destruction of the Yugoslav army are very concrete Nazi gains; but it must not be forgotten that Germany was fighting in her own economic backyard. By and large, Germany was taking about everything she wanted from Yugoslavia before the war broke out. Now many valuable supplies have been destroyed, communications have been severely damaged, and the Germans have had to expend their own valuable supplies to do this.

Moreover, the alternative to a British disaster was an even greater diplomatic defeat. No one can say what part of Yugoslav and Greek resistance was due to their own will to resist, and what part was due to what the Germans might call Anglo-Americans machinations. But



if the Greeks and Yugoslavs had given in without fighting, the Germans would have gotten everything which they have now without any destruction of their own economic substance. Instead of having servile governments do their bidding, the Germans will have to station troops to suppress the smoldering hatreds of enemy peoples and the sabotage of the "bomitatj's," the Balkan behind-the-lines warriors.

The Germans can have but two strategies. Either they must beat Britain in the British Isles, through invasion or destruction or starvation, or they must beat Britain in a war of attrition. If anything, the Greek campaign has delayed German action against the British Isles. But if it is to be a war of attrition, the Germans must go farther; they must take the oil of the Middle East and drive the British from the eastern Mediterranean. Toward this end the conquest of Greece has been nothing more than an important start. There are still Crete, Turkey, Egypt and Iraq to be reckoned with.

If the British Isles are not conquered, then the war will become a battle of production. Anglo-American production at its peak is greater than that of Germany and German-occupied Europe. If American production is speeded up to capacity, and the deliveries reach Britain, the British can hope, perhaps, to win in some far-distant day. If the British can keep their fleet in the eastern Mediterranean, the blockade on oil will press hard on Germany, for the oil resources of Europe, including artificial and natural sources, are not enough for even Germany and Italy, and certainly, if all Europe is to produce for the Axis, some oil must be given to the conquered countries. Thus, if the British keep the blockade working, by maintaining their hold on the eastern Mediterranean, Anglo-American production superiority is in sight. If the British had won the battle of the Balkans, that superiority might almost be here now.

Chicago Journal of Commerce, April 26, 1941

## **BALKANS "INSIDE STORY" LAYS BRITISH DEFEAT TO JUGOSLAV AXIS REGIME**

BY WALLACE CARROLL

LONDON, April 26 (U. P.)—Germany's quick triumph in Greece is due to the failure of the Cvetkovitch Government of Yugoslavia to mobilize, a well-informed British source disclosed today in revealing the full inside story of the Balkan campaign and the events which preceded it.

There were circumstantial stories that the Cvetkovitch Government which signed Yugoslavia into the Axis had mobilized the army.

### *Stories 'Untrue'*

These stories, which were disseminated by the Cvetkovitch Government, were untrue, it was asserted, and instead of a stiff fight to reach the Vital Bitolj (Monastir) Gap where the Germans broke through to threaten the Allied left flank, the Nazi forces had little more than a march.

Points in the story are:

1. Britain decided in February that Germany had determined to overrun the Balkans and means were considered to make her campaign as difficult as possible.

2. An attempt was made to line up Balkan Powers.

3. Greece at once made it clear she would fight, and Britain in consequence was bound to aid her.

4. Prince Paul, then Regent of Yugoslavia, and his Government were cold to all offers of aid.

5. The government which seized power in Yugoslavia by a coup had no time to mobilize the army, with the result that the Germans broke through the Bitolj Gap.

This British informant thought that on the outcome of the Battle of Egypt, following the Balkan campaign, might depend the participation in the war of Japan and Spain on the side of Germany.

### *Outpost Action*

He called the Battle of Greece an outpost action in the more important Battle of Egypt.

Early in February, about the time the British reached Benghazi in their Libyan drive, it was clear that the Germans were going to try to overrun the Balkans in the spring, the informant said. Germany hoped to get the Balkans without a fight, he explained, and then to strike at the British nerve center of Egypt.

The British War Cabinet, the informant continued, agreed that it would be sound policy to try to upset this plan and make the Germans fight for anything they got.

### *Strategic Reserve*

The Cabinet's defense council thereupon decided to create a strategic reserve of men and material in the Near East and try to establish a Balkan front with any Balkan nation willing to resist.

Anthony Eden, Foreign Secretary, and General Sir John Dill, Chief of the Imperial General Staff, were sent to the Near East to carry out this policy.

Upon their arrival they found that the British military leaders in Egypt had independently reached the same conclusions.

### *Worth the Risk*

The service chiefs believed it would be worth the risks involved if the British could establish a front in the Balkans, because the German sources of supply could be impaired and some Balkan countries might be enlisted in the British cause.

Eden and Dill went to Athens. Alexander Koritzis, the late Premier, handed Eden a written memorandum saying Greece would fight against Germany as well as Italy, if necessary alone, and that it was for Britain to decide whether she could send help and how much.

### *Morally Bound to Aid*

The British government then agreed that aside from any military or political considerations it was morally bound to help Greece.

Greek and British military chiefs then picked their best defensive line that along the Visistra River, abandoning those on the other side of Salonika as too easily flanked. They realized the danger also of flanking movement through Yugoslavia's Bitolj Gap. But they felt they would have time to strengthen their defenses against this threat.

They believed that Yugoslavia's adherence to the Axis would mean weeks of threats and political maneuvers before Yugoslavia permitted Germany to use the Bitolj Gap. If Yugoslavia elected to fight, on the other hand, they believed that the Yugoslav army could hold the gap for several weeks.

### *Hardly Enough Clothes*

British troops began to arrive in Greece and much material was sent Greek troops, whose munitions and

weapons were nearing exhaustion. The Greeks had hardly sufficient clothing, because of the long fight.

Eden and Dill went on to Turkey. They agreed that as long as Britain was centering her aid on Greece, Turkey was not bound to take offensive action against Germany.

Both in Turkey and Greece, Eden put out feelers to Yugoslavia. They were coldly rejected.

#### *Feeble Contact*

My informant said that at one stage there was "feeble" military contact with Yugoslavia but that it was resultless. All this time, the informant said, the Yugoslavs were not mobilizing, despite contrary information put out by the Yugoslav Government.

This failure to mobilize, he said, proved fatal to Anglo-Greek plans.

The new Yugoslav Government decided to fight, but instead of requiring several weeks to reach the Bitolj Gap the Germans quickly overwhelmed the small, hastily posted Yugoslav forces who reached the gap. This exposed the British left flank and caused a withdrawal to the Visistra line.

#### *Surprise Thrust in Libya*

Meanwhile, the Germans thrust east in Libya and reached the Egyptian frontier. My informant said British military leaders had not expected the thrust so soon, and that they underestimated its speed and strength.

My informant was confident, however, that the British could halt the drive.

My informant expressed confidence also that Turkey would resist a German attack. He said that Turkey's position had been improved by the dispatch of British troops to Iraq and a friendlier attitude by Russia. He expressed doubt, however, that Russia would adopt a firmer attitude toward Germany or move closer to Great Britain.

#### *Firm Stand in Syria*

In Syria, my informant said, the French have been taking a firm attitude toward German and Italian "armistice missions." But he added that there was deep concern regarding the situation in French Morocco, not because German infiltration was on a large scale, but because General Maxime Weygand, the French commander-in-chief in Africa, and the Vichy Government were not reacting from it.

Finally, my informant expressed belief that the rising flood of supplies from the United States would help win the Battle of Egypt as well as the Battle of the Atlantic.

### **SERBS AND CROATS KILLED EACH OTHER INSTEAD OF NAZIS**

#### **Internal Dissension Caused Collapse, Says Eyewitness.**

*(The story of the last days of Yugoslavia is told in uncensored form for the first time in the following article dispatched from Budapest by Michael Chinigo, International News Service correspondent who covered the 20-year-old kingdom's collapse. How Yugoslavia finally was brought to her knees after only 12 days of the Nazi campaign is told in this, the second of two articles.)*

BY MICHAEL CHINIGO

BUDAPEST, April 26 (I.N.S.)—It was men against machines—ox-carts against tanks!"

That, in the words of Gen. Peter Nedelkovic, commander of the Yugoslavian army in Croatia, summarizes the brief campaign which ended the existence of this kingdom in less than a fortnight.

#### *Peter at Serajevo*

The final days of the struggle were just a tragic postscript to the hesitation, the internal dissent, and lack of preparedness which enabled the Germans to overrun much of Yugoslavia in the first three days.

After the initial bombardments of Belgrade, April 6, I followed the government from place to place.

By April 11 I was in Serajevo with the high command.

There the high command was joined by 17-year-old King Peter—who had remained in Belgrade during all the bombings—even though his own palace had been blasted to ruins. The foreign office took up quarters at Ildje.

#### *Reveals Bewilderment*

The country's bewilderment was graphically revealed on the seventh day after the war began. Newspaper extras announced that Gen. Milan Nadic had been made a marshal because he had retaken Skoplje and separating the German panzer units from the regular army.

But the papers were suppressed quickly when a motor courier revealed that not only was recapture of Skoplje untrue, but the German army menaced the flank of the Yugoslav forces marching on Albania, and forced the Yugoslavs to make a hasty retreat!

Serajevo lasted a single day after the arrival of King Peter. Dive-bombers on April 12 bombed the post office. And on Easter Sunday the Italians mercilessly bombed the city all day long.

#### *City Destroyed*

The city virtually was destroyed.

At the same time the Germans bombed Ildje—but only government offices. This astounding fact revealed the mysterious speed, accuracy and extent of the operation of the German intelligence within Yugoslavian lines.

With German planes overhead, King Peter and members of his government held a midnight session Easter Sunday night at suburban Pali and decided to ask for an armistice. Premier General Dusan Simovitch resigned, and General Kalasapovic succeeded him as the last premier in Yugoslavia's history.

Peter and Simovitch left by motor for Niksic, north of the Albanian frontier.

The Germans would not hear of an armistice. They demanded unconditional surrender.

Premier Kalasapovic had no choice but to accept. On Thursday, April 17, Alexander Cincar-Marcovich—who was foreign minister in the Yugoslavian government which was overthrown because it signed an axis agreement—signed the terms of surrender.

With the United States military attache, I made my way to Zagreb and thence to Budapest. We were delayed at Travnik, however, because General Nedelkovic, commander of the army in Croatia, was still uninformed of the surrender five days after it was ordered and still was fighting a rear-guard action.

#### *Croats Fought Serbs*

I had luncheon with General Nedelkovic, who told me: "My troubles began when only 25 per cent of the troops called up responded. Instead of 200,000 men I had approximately 50,000—and the majority were Croats."

"The Croats turned against the Serbs, causing wholesale slaughter on both sides. This paved the way for a virtually unopposed German advance, in which German casualties were extremely low.

"We were not able to fight the Germans at our northern frontier. We fought three battles south of Brod in the Starimjdan region, but we succeeded in withdrawing only two battalions and two artillery units. The others were sacrificed."

## WRITER TELLS OF THWARTING DEATH AS SPY IN BELGRADE

**Serbs Nearly Shoot Reporter:—Safe In Budapest After Three Weeks; Describes Chaos Among Yugoslavs.**

BY SAM BREWER

BUDAPEST, April 26 (C.T.P.S.)—Now I know how it feels to wait for a firing squad.

I am just back from Yugoslavia where for 12 hours I wanted to be shot by Serbs as a convicted German spy, and was saved only by a series of unlikely coincidences.

But today I took a hot bath, put on clean clothes and told a waiter what I was going to eat for the first time in three weeks. And I haven't heard a shot or explosion all day.

That may not sound unusual in America, but I have been in Belgrade, a city of death and misery, where you eat what you can find at the market in the early morning or can sponge from kind friends in the diplomatic corps who laid in stores, a city which has no running water, no electricity, no shops, and no hotels, and where people don't turn their heads for rifle shots or explosions.

Just under three weeks ago, on arriving there, I was arrested in the blazing ruins of Belgrade and convicted on the spot as a spy. Twelve hours later I escaped execution because a Serb who knew friends of mine happened upon me and thought I had an honest face.

At last, after being cut off from the outside world for 19 days, I have reached a city from which I can tell what I believe is the first eyewitness story by a neutral newspaperman of the tragedy of Yugoslavia.

The train that should have landed me in Belgrade at 6 a. m. on April 5 stopped at 5 o'clock the next afternoon 10 miles out of Belgrade, where we could watch German dive bombers wheeling like flocks of starlings over the capital, whose position was marked by a great black cloud.

The train went no further, and when at 6:30 the conductor told us we had orders to turn back, I set out on foot with a 40-pound pack and my typewriter, guided in the growing dark by the red glow which burning Belgrade cast on the clouds.

Soldiers stopped me on the way and held me half an hour until an officer approved my passport. While I waited, and endless stream of refugees poured past, with knapsacks, blankets, and suitcases. Nobody was going my way.

### *Wanders Through Flames*

At 9 o'clock I reached Belgrade, where from a hill on the edge of town the miles of flaming buildings came into view. For the next hour I wandered through the town, looking vainly for someone I knew.

Belgrade looked like a corner of hell. It seemed as if every building was burning, and that impression was about 50 per cent correct.

Wherever I went, I slipped and slid on an inch-thick layer of shattered glass. Streetcars stood where they had been abandoned by their motormen. Steel lamp posts leaned tipsily across the streets. In many cases I had to run through showers of falling embers from the blazes that provided the only light there was in the city.

In an hour's walking, I didn't see a dozen living souls. All who had not fled from the city's horror were seeking safety underground.

### *Seized by Vigilantes*

The Drpski Kralj Hotel was a heap of ruins, and while I was looking for another hotel, eight Serbian "comitadjis," vigilantes armed with shotguns and pistols, seized me.

The eight armed men were afraid of me and made me keep my hands over my head while they questioned me with a shotgun muzzle in the small of my back.

If I turned my head to answer a question, they all roared in unison: "Halt!"

One wanted to shoot me on the spot. The others thought they should search me first.

Under the red light of the flames, they dumped my knapsack on the pavement in front of Prince Paul's palace after they had been convinced that the typewriter really was only a typewriter.

### *Find Wire and Battery*

Then they found the evidence they needed: a coil of wire used to repair the typewriter, a spare flashlight battery, and a pair of boots.

To the comitadjis, these articles in turn were a radio antenna, a radio transmitter, and German army boots.

Fireworks were postponed because an army major came past in a car crawling in the darkness. The vigilantes hailed him and shouted:

"Parachutist! Radio apparatus!"

Refusing to listen to anything I said or to look at my papers, the major had me bundled into a second car with two guards behind me. There I stayed for 12 hours.

It was not until my release that I discovered the comitadjis had stolen my gold watch, fountain pen and flashlight.

As the German bombers began their night attack on Belgrade, we drove out of the city. Until 6 a. m. we rode about the countryside, stopping at intervals while the major looked over the roadside—for, I thought, a convenient place to leave my body.

All night we could see the glow of burning Belgrade and hear the thud of the bombs.

At 6 o'clock the major parked his car in a cherry orchard near the Danube and went to sleep, after informing my guards he would deal with me when he was called at 9 o'clock.

I decided then it was time to put up more of an argument, and spent a good part of the next three hours explaining to my guards, who fortunately spoke French, that I must be released to do my work or there would be a lot of explaining for the major to do.

### *Appeals to Newspapermen*

Just before 9 o'clock, a pair of Serbian newspapermen whose car had broken down near by came to see the "spy." One of them, when he found that I knew some of his friends, tried to intercede for me. The major had him arrested and put under guard.

A third colleague who came to rescue him was not only an editor but a colonel in the army reserve and a friend of the major. Accepting his judgment, the major turned me loose.

Throughout the one-week campaign I remained a prisoner of the Serbs in fact, although supposedly free. In Aranjelovac, a little village 50 miles south of Belgrade where I had been taken to get a pass from the military authorities, I saw the panic spread by reports of parachutists.

#### *Even Serbs Suspected*

I saw not only every foreigner, but every passing Serb crowded at bayonet point to the police station to have his papers verified.

I found that even with a pass issued by the local chief of police I could not venture into the street without being arrested until the signature was verified.

For two days the local commandant sent a soldier everywhere with me to protect me.

Although there was a huge and active Fifth Column, nobody I have found ever saw a genuine parachutist, but the propaganda did the work. Everybody not known to the local vigilantes was arrested. The result was to spread distrust and fear over the countryside.

Although no transport was available, I could have proceeded on foot. But I would have been arrested at the edge of the village.

There was no war there. All one evening we heard the cannon a few miles away. That night, Easter Sunday, the army left the village and the Germans passed us by on another road.

The war was over for Aranjelovac and without a struggle.

There was evidently good reason for Fifth Column fear. The man sent to represent the Germans in the village was a Yugoslav. Elsewhere in the country the same sort of evidence has cropped up that Yugoslavia was riddled with treachery.

Only the aid of the Turkish minister, Cezvi Koperler, sheltering in the same village, got me out of my fix. Three days after the village surrendered the Germans gave him a military truck to take his staff back to Belgrade, and as a neutral reporter, allowed me to go with them.

#### *Week to Find Transport*

Once in Belgrade the Germans made no difficulty about a pass. There remained only the question of transport—which took a week to solve.

Yesterday, in a Ford roadster belonging to the American Legation, I left Belgrade with Cecil Brown, of the Columbia Broadcasting System, Mr. and Mrs. Cavendish W. Cannon, of the American Legation in Athens; a Scotch terrier, and 12 pieces of luggage. My own luggage had been reduced by circumstances to one knapsack.

Instead of one frontier halt, we had three between Belgrade and Budapest, but only the newly organized Croat authorities tried to make any difficulties.

They remarked, "Americans are our enemies." Even they relented and let us pass after a delay of two hours.

#### **SIDELINE COACHES**

No one in America was more pleased by the Yugoslav coup last week than two Serbs who felt that they had helped engineer it: Constantin Fotitch, Yugoslav Minister to Washington since 1935, and Dr. Svetislav-Sveta Petrovitch, Yugoslav newspaperman and radio commentator.

Fotitch, born in 1891 of peasant stock in the Serbian city of Shabatz on the Danube, entered his country's foreign service in 1915, fought as a cavalry captain through the World War, and became Yugoslavia's permanent Under Secretary of Foreign Affairs in the early '20s. As one of the statesmen active in the formation of the Little Entente (Rumania, Czecho-Slovakia, and Yugoslavia), Fotitch became an intimate of the late Nicolas Titulescu, Rumanian Foreign Minister, and Eduard Benes, Foreign Minister and later President of Czecho-Slovakia.

With the rise of Hitler, however, Fotitch and his rabidly pro-Ally sentiments lost favor, and he was relegated to the diplomatic sidelines as Minister to faraway Washington. There, he became a close friend of President Roosevelt, who often consulted him on Balkan affairs. When Germany weeks ago began pressing Yugoslavia to join the Axis partnership, Fotitch acted. While the Yugoslav Premier Dragisha Cvetkovitch, and Foreign Minister Alexander Cincar-Markovitch were "visiting" Hitler at Berchtesgaden in February, the Minister obtained from Mr. Roosevelt a personal pledge of aid to Yugoslavia under the Lend-Lease Bill, then being debated in Congress. By devious means, this assurance was relayed to the Yugoslav diplomats at Hitler's mountain retreat. They went home pactless. Last week, when the Axis pact appeared to be finally a reality, Fotitch moved with the same lightning speed. With his approval and impetus, six Yugoslav shipping companies announced they had formed the "Free Yugoslav" movement in the United States and would transfer 25 or 30 cargo vessels to the British the moment the pact brought their country in conflict with London.

Petrovitch, born in Belgrade in 1895, like Fotitch was educated in France and entered his country's foreign service. He soon turned to journalism, however, and covered the League of Nations at Geneva before becoming director of the official Yugoslav news agency, Avala, in 1935. Ousted for pro-Ally feelings, he returned to Paris and in March 1939 the French set him up as a radio broadcaster to offset German propaganda in his homeland. He broadcast three times a week to his countrymen until France fell in June, when he was forced to flee, arriving in the United States in October. By December he was broadcasting again from station WRUL in Boston. Basing his talks on Mr. Roosevelt's speeches and debate on the Lend-Lease Bill, he implored his people to stay clear of Hitler's grasp and to remember that, with America's help, Britain would win.

"Five million Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes," Dr. Petrovitch boasted last week, "in market places, cafes, and public places, have listened to me!"

(Newsweek, April 7, 1941)

## U. S. TO SPEED FULL AID AT ONCE TO YUGOSLAVS

BY JOSEPH G. HARRISON

Staff Correspondent of *The Christian Science Monitor*

WASHINGTON, April 7—The United States was today bending every effort to send substantial aid to the Allied forces in the Balkans in line with Secretary of State Cordell Hull's promise that American military supplies would go to Yugoslavia with all possible speed.

Although the question of just how to get this aid to the Anglo-Greco-Yugoslavian forces in the Balkans remained the major hurdle before the Government here, it is pointed out that the new German offensive, relieving a portion of the pressure on Great Britain, will make it possible to divert materiel to the new front which would otherwise have to go to Britain itself.

Secretary Hull today termed the week-end Yugoslav-Soviet treaty of non-aggression as encouraging, saying that it demonstrated that an increasing number of Nations are becoming aware and have become aware of the purpose of conquest of the totalitarian nations. This follows similar American approval of the recent Soviet assurance to Turkey that that Nation need fear no attack from the Soviet Union if called on to defend itself elsewhere.

The belief is strong here that the almost-completed British victories in East Africa and the necessity for finding a comparatively safe line of supply between the United States and the Balkans will soon result in a reopening of the Red Sea to American shipping. Although the average freighter-time between New York and the Red Sea is some two months, this might be substantially cut by the use of the new fast freighters now being turned out by the Maritime Commission.

### *Assails Aggression*

Secretary Hull's promise of aid, made after consultation with President Roosevelt, was as explicit and forthright as his condemnation of the latest German aggression.

"Another small Nation has been assaulted by the forces of aggression and is further proof that there are no geographical limitations or bounds of any kind to their movement for world conquest," he said.

"The American people have the greatest sympathy for the Nation which has been thus so outrageously attacked and we follow closely the valiant struggle the Yugoslav people are making to protect their homes and preserve their liberty.

### *Rushing Full Aid*

"This Government, with its policy of helping those who are defending themselves against would-be conquerors, is now proceeding as speedily as possible to send military and other supplies to Yugoslavia."

American efforts to translate this promise into actual shipments of planes, guns and munitions are spurred by the unanimous opinion of War and Navy Department experts that the new Balkan front gives Britain and its Allies a superb opening against Germany if the first mighty German thrust can be parried. At the same time, however, these experts warn that losing the Balkans might mean losing all, thus calling for both unstinting American aid but also for a bold decision as to how to get it there.

If the Allied forces in the Balkans can prove during the next few crucial days that they can hold the German onslaught, a strong movement in favor of amending the Neutrality Act to permit American vessels to carry goods directly to Greek and Albanian ports is expected to get under way here. The feeling is said to be growing here that America's frontier is now in Greece and Yugoslavia and that this country must be prepared to run some risks in maintaining that frontier.

### *Control of the Seas*

Britain's increasing command of the Mediterranean, following the Royal Navy's devastating blows against Italian sea power, would make such a move more feasible than it would have been a few months ago, it is said.

It is further argued that the more America aids in the Balkans, the stronger will be the Soviet Union's anti-German stand. America's actions in the immediate future are expected to have strong repercussions in Turkey, whose 500,000 or more troops are massed along the Bulgarian border and, according to some military observers, are in a position to strike a heavy blow at the German Balkan flank.

One example of American dispatch was afforded by the American Red Cross, Chairman Norman H. Davis announced today that supplies valued at more than \$1,000,000 would be sent to Yugoslavia without delay. Included in the shipments will be 10 field hospitals, tons of medicine and blankets and 2,000,000 surgical dressings.

The Red Cross, which has already sent some \$2,000,000 worth of aid to the Greeks, said that the first shipments would clear from an Atlantic port in about two weeks.

### *U. S. Keeps in Touch*

In order to maintain constant contact with Yugoslav officials, the State Department has ordered the American Minister, Arthur Bliss Lane, to follow the Yugoslav Government wherever it may go. Since the Yugoslav Government may be forced into the wild mountains of southern or western Yugoslavia, Minister Lane may be forced to communicate with this country by way of Athens.

Secretary Hull's note of encouragement to the Yugoslavs follows what amounted to a virtual American campaign during the past few weeks designed to strengthen Belgrade's resistance to German demands. This campaign took the form of statements by the President and the Secretary of State reiterating America's determination to aid the victims of aggressions and of long talks which Minister Lane had with Belgrade officials.

Behind these American statements was the passage of the Lend-Lease Act, which is credited with having been a prime factor in inducing Britain to send troops into Greece. The measure's passage came at the right moment to allay British worries, to encourage the Yugoslav people and to stiffen the Greeks to a point where they felt freer to reject Germany's demands for a speedy settlement of the Greco-Italian conflict.

Col. William J. Donovan, who toured the Balkans and the Near East as an observer for President Roosevelt, was also active in stiffening opposition to the Axis. Colonel Donovan is widely credited with hav-

ing convinced the British that Yugoslavia would resist, thereby inducing War Minister Anthony Eden and Gen Sir Archibald Wavell, Commander of the British Forces in the Near East to send British troops to Greece

The problem of transporting the materials to the Balkans was believed here not to be very great. Eight Yugoslavian ships were reported in American ports in the last few days

## **BELGRADE IS REPORTED 'PICTURE OF DESOLATION'**

### **Vichy Writer Says Populace Fled Nazi Bombing**

LONDON, April 10 (CP)—A Vichy news agency correspondent quoted by the British Broadcasting Corporation described today how German bombing attacks on Belgrade left the Yugoslav capital "a picture of desolation"

The correspondent said the first bombs fell soon after 7 o'clock last Sunday morning. By the following afternoon "only a few thousand inhabitants" remained in the city.

"Belgrade was a picture of desolation," the correspondent wrote. "There were enormous craters in the middle of broad avenues. Buses were overturned, houses left frontless and bodies strewn in the streets."

"Some of the bodies were covered with flowers and wreaths."

(New York Herald Tribune)

## **WILLKIE JOINS MAYOR IN CALL TO HELP YUGOSLAVS**

### **Relief Fund Appeal Says Nation "Chose to Fight" Despite Hitler Threat**

An appeal to Americans to give aid immediately to the Yugoslavs in recognition of their heroism in challenging the might of Germany to preserve their freedom was issued yesterday by twenty-nine prominent persons, including Wendell L. Willkie and Mayor F. H. LaGuardia

"Salute to the Yugoslav people, who have chosen to die on their feet, if need be, rather than live on their knees," the statement said. "But let our salute be more than a gesture. Let us substantiate it with American medicines for the soldier wounded and with American relief for their bombed and desolate families"

The appeal suggested that contributions be made to the American Red Cross and marked specifically for Yugoslav relief. An arrangement has been made between Norman H. Davis, chairman of the Red Cross, and Yugoslav officials, it said, to have all such donations go entirely to direct relief.

The appeal stressed that the Yugoslavs entered the fighting fully aware of what resistance meant.

Other signers included Hamilton Fish Armstrong, editor of "Foreign Affairs"; Arthur Hays Sulzberger, president and publisher of "The New York Times"; William C. Bullitt, former American Ambassador to France; Col. William J. Donovan; William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor; Robert E. Sherwood, playwright; David Dubinsky, president of the International Ladies' Garment Workers Union; Marshall Field; Thomas W. Lamont; Archi-

bald MacLeish, Librarian of Congress; Dr. Charles Seymour, president of Yale University; Dr. Harold W. Dodds, president of Princeton University; Booth Tarkington and Dr. Isaiah Bowman, president of Johns Hopkins University.

(New York Herald Tribune, April 11, 1941)

## **PAUSE IN SOUTH SERBIA**

German armored units rolled into shattered Belgrade at dawn yesterday, one week to the hour after the first fall of the Nazis' bombs had announced their new war and begun their systematic devastation of the city. The occupation of their ruin makes an Easter morning observance appropriate to this pagan machinery of slaughter and destruction; but the fall of a capital which from the beginning was admittedly indefensible anyway is not an event of the first importance. More significant than the news of this more or less symbolic victory in northern Yugoslavia is the want of any clear news at all from the south.

No one can say what is really happening in that area. But for some reason or other the great battle along the Mount Olympus-Florina line has failed to develop as yet—the British rather surprisingly declare that they have not been in contact with the Germans in the Monastir region since Friday—while the reports persist that a large part of the Yugoslav Army is not only still in being but is bringing real pressure against the German spearheads that slashed with such speed through southern Serbia. Whatever the explanation, one can only note a very marked slowing down in the rush of German aggression.

One cannot say more. In Libya the news is bad; this is a measure of how much the British dared to gamble on the Balkan front, and in the Balkans the news is not good. But taking the eastern Mediterranean theater as a whole, one can see the retreat through Libya as part of an "elastic defense" being put up by a small force against a powerful one—a small force utilizing its chief advantage, which is sea power, on an interior line, holding where the greatest advantage can be gained, yielding where necessary, extending the enemy's efforts to the maximum, maneuvering to compensate for want of strength. Such a force may do great things, whatever defeats it is compelled to accept. The struggle in the eastern Mediterranean, regarded as a single campaign, is by no means over and may have surprising results in the end.

Editorial, New York Herald-Tribune, April 14, 1941

## **BELGRADE "A CITY OF DEAD," SAYS U. S. CONSUL** **Bodies in Streets; No Signs of Life! People Underground**

BY HAROLD PETERS

BUDAPEST, Hungary, April 14 (U.P.)—German bombers have blasted all signs of life out of Belgrade, killing an estimated 3,000 persons, destroying water, gas, and electrical systems, filling the streets with debris until it is impossible to remove the dead, and driving the whole population underground, according to Outerbridge Horsey, United States vice consul here.

Caught just inside the Yugoslav frontier en route to Belgrade when the blitzkrieg started April 6, Horsey arrived here Saturday evening with a report of condi-



tions of horror and desolation in the ancient Yugoslav capital, city of 266,000

### *No Signs of Life*

The railway station was nothing but a shell; the opera house was gone, the downtown palace was scarred with hits from dive bombers, bodies had lain exposed in the street for days, and there were no signs of life anywhere, he said. All Americans escaped uninjured, however, he said.

The first bombs that hit the city on Palm Sunday morning disabled all public services—light, water and gas—and pitted the street with craters so ambulances could not move, Horsey said.

Street cars, halted by the power failure, were overturned by bomb concussions, spewing their passengers into the street.

Thousands fled the city that Sunday and the following day, but by Tuesday they were filtering back, having found no haven elsewhere. They kept to the deepest cellars, leaving the streets deserted, while the bombing continued four days.

Between bombings the city was stupefied and silent. Horsey said his main impression was that it was a city of "rubble and dead." Members of the United States legation learned of several authenticated cases in which as many as 50 persons were killed in single air raid shelters by direct bomb hits.

### *Find Water for Legation*

The residence of United States Minister Arthur Bliss Lane was badly damaged on two sides by bomb concussions but the legation, at the rear of the same building, was undamaged. The legation was threatened with a water shortage until James Bonbright, second secretary, who had a well at his home and had taken the precaution to buy several water jugs, was able to start deliveries in his car.

Leon Kay, United Press staff correspondent, and Leigh White, of the Overseas News Agency and Columbia Broadcasting System, accompanied the Yugoslav general staff to an unannounced place in the direction of the coast, Horsey said. Another group, including Ray Brock, of the New York Times, and Robert St John, of the Associated Press, went with another section of the government.

Lane and most of his staff stayed in the city, although the first secretary went with a section of the government.

Horsey arrived in Belgrade with diplomatic dispatches after the bombardment started. He attempted to get back to the Hungarian frontier by automobile and horse and buggy, but was turned back 20 miles from the border. Returning to Belgrade, he set out again Thursday in a legation car, accompanied by Col. Louis Fortier, military attache, and a courier named Fraiser.

### *Refugees Beg "Lift"*

Refugees clogged the roads and clawed at the windows of the Americans' automobile, pleading for a ride. Horsey picked up a woman and her children on their way to Subotica, and then locked the car doors.

Farther along the car had to edge its way through the retreating Yugoslav army, which hurried south dragging its motorized equipment over unpaved roads. After hours, this traffic dissolved and the road suddenly was clear. Horsey said he realized he was in

No Man's land. The Germans had left this area north of Belgrade open for the Hungarians to occupy.

Horsey had slipped between German columns converging fanwise from Austria and Rumania. The problem then was to speed to the frontier before the Hungarian army marched in to block the narrow, rocky road. The Americans won the race by two hours.

(Washington Times-Herald)

## **YUGOSLAVIA'S CONTRIBUTION**

The German high command has announced the unconditional surrender of the Yugoslavian Army. While there has been no official confirmation of this development from Yugoslav or British sources, yesterday's delayed dispatch from Robert St John, Associated Press correspondent with what he laconically described as the "remnants of the Yugoslavian Army," makes it clear that organized resistance to the Nazi onslaught definitely has collapsed. In fact, the Serbian Army seems to have become so disorganized after twelve days of savage assaults by overwhelmingly superior German "blitz" forces that it is hard to understand how the Nazis were able to conduct capitulation negotiations with any representative qualified to speak for Yugoslavia or its military command.

Mr St John paid high tribute to the courage of the Serbs, but his description of the fighting shows how pitifully one-sided the struggle was, and how hopeless. In addition to their bravery, the Yugoslavs had little more than small arms and ox-drawn artillery to oppose the onrushing mechanized might of the German Army. That there was organized resistance for as long as ten or twelve days is all the more remarkable. This resistance, a factor which had not been taken into account by the British and Greeks in their original plans for defense of Greece, was not a futile gesture. It tossed a monkey wrench in the smoothly running Nazi war machine at the very start of its drive toward Greece, slowing up the advance and giving the British and Greeks more time in which to consolidate their positions. Moreover, the Germans admit that systematic blocking of tunnels and destruction of bridges and highways have complicated the problem of reinforcing and supplying Nazi troops in Greece and Albania. There is little doubt that Serbian guerrilla bands will continue to harass German columns passing through the mountains of Yugoslavia.

On the other hand, the cessation of formal hostilities in Yugoslavia will free unknown numbers of German troops for service in the south. These reserves will be thrown into the battle for Greece at a most critical stage, from the standpoint of the Allies. The Germans already outnumber the combined British and Greek forces by a huge margin, and the influx of reinforcements is discouraging in the extreme. A decisive battle now is being waged from Mount Olympus to the Adriatic Sea, and on its outcome hinges the fate of the entire Balkan area. Whatever happens, history will record that the fighting Serbs contributed their full share to the cause of embattled democracy in this tragic era.

(Editorial)

(Washington Evening Star, April 19, 1941)



## YUGOSLAVIA

There is no reason to doubt that organized resistance in Yugoslavia has ceased; to question the astonishing fact that in eleven days of fighting an army of something like a million men, which sprang to the colors enthusiastically and fought desperately, has been put out of action. This fact has its obvious moral: the German Army is more powerful—hits harder, can adjust itself more rapidly to a changing political and strategic situation, can conquer difficulties of transport and terrain more easily—than even the campaign of 1940 indicated. But if the sacrifice of Yugoslavia had proved only this, it might go down as a footnote to military history; might rank, perhaps, with the fate of those minor German principalities engulfed in the Napoleonic wars.

Yugoslavia's determination to resist the Nazi march meant far more than a test of Nazi military strength. It furnished one of the most convincing demonstrations possible of the aspect which the "new Europe" presents to Europeans outside the Third Reich. For though Germany's display of strength proved even greater than was anticipated, Yugoslavia knew that Germany was terribly strong; knew that to fight meant appalling losses and stupendous risks. Yet, knowing that, Yugoslavia fought. She preferred certain trials and possible enforced submission to accepting the bribes—with the moral degradation and eventual slavery they surely implied—of the Axis.

And Yugoslavia's example was more than just another in the pitifully long series recorded in the last few years, of nations which went down fighting before the Nazi assault. Her strategic situation was extremely dangerous; German might had been clearly shown, and German promises had been generous. Under the circumstances, the realist may say that the Yugoslavs were fools—that their sacrifices were in vain, or out of all proportion to the good they achieved. The coldly appraising eye which sees little in this world worth dying for; which finds its good only in immediate success, may view the tragedy of Yugoslavia thus. But in those mountains where faith was kept alive through centuries of persecution, such matters appear in a different light—a light of stubborn courage that must illumine the world if rampant evil is ever to be conquered.

(Editorial)

(New York Herald-Tribune, April 20, 1941)

## THIEF OF TIME

### Will America Also Be Too Late?

BY BARNET NOVER

THE GERMAN juggernaut continues its relentless drive into Greece. Only a miracle can now save that brave nation whose liberty-loving people are today exemplifying the finest traditions of their magnificent past. It may be merely a matter of days before Greece is added to the long list of Hitler's captives.

The present war involved, at the outset, only four European nations. Opposing Germany were Great Britain, France and Poland. There could be no question where lay the sympathies of Danes and Norwegians, Belgians and Netherlands, Yugoslavs and Greeks. All of these peoples wanted the Allies to win.

All of them wanted the Nazi menace destroyed. They realized that unless it was destroyed their independence would be imperilled. But they also wanted to remain at peace. The war they said, thinking wishfully, was not their war.

Washington Post, April 21, 1941

## SERBS FAILED TO MOBILIZE IN TIME TO STOP NAZIS

### Ox-Drawn Guns Shattered by Panzers; Fifth Columnists Turn Rout Into Panic.

*Sam Brewer, Chicago Tribune Press Service correspondent in the Balkans, after watching Germany's conquest of Yugoslavia, has arrived in Istanbul, Turkey, a neutral point. From Istanbul he filed this uncensored story of the factors leading to the Nazi victory and an eyewitness account of Yugoslavia under German occupation.*

BY SAM BREWER

ISTANBUL, Turkey, May 2 (C.T.P.S.)—Yugoslavia collapsed in 10 days because the Germans were good, but still more because the country was hopelessly unprepared and disorganized.

The Yugoslav army was tied together with string, in many cases literally. It was a horse and ox-drawn army, a good 1914 army on the whole, but not good enough for the job it tried to do.

That is the nutshell answer to the question everyone pops immediately at a new arrival from Belgrade.

The full details will not be available for a long while. People emerging from Yugoslavia, where they were completely cut off for three weeks from all outside communication, were astonished at the world's ignorance at what went on, but actually those inside did not know much more, and that includes high officers.

### The Inside Story

Gradually the story is being pieced together. The main elements of the rapid Yugoslav collapse were:

1. The complete disruption of communications.
2. The secrecy inspired by the fear of spies, which added to everyone's ignorance of what everyone else was trying to do.

3. Unpreparedness, due partly to the government's past policy of trying to temporize with Germany, partly to the overconfidence in the power of the stout-hearted soldiery against the German machine, and partly to incomprehension of modern German tactics and how to oppose them.

### Fifth Column Played Part

The Fifth Column promoted all those conditions, but it was not entirely responsible for them. The Serbs themselves managed to produce complete chaos.

Yugoslavia never mobilized her army. Up to the time of the armistice, so high officers told me, no general call to the colors ever had been issued. No plan of campaign in case of war existed, they said, and no first line nor second line ever was planned.

The secret of where the ministries would go if they left Belgrade was kept even from responsible officials. As a concrete example, the Ban (Governor) of the whole region from Hungary's border to 100 miles south of Belgrade took refuge with his staff in Arandjelovao, where I was marooned.

He had contact from time to time with the Ministry of the Interior, but official telegrams sent to the Foreign Office never were answered, and later he lost contact even with the Ministry of the Interior

#### *Telegraph Goes Dead*

The telegraph lines would suddenly stop working without anybody knowing whether they had been cut by the enemy or by traitors, or whether the operators simply had fled. Telephone communications did not exist in most of the country.

When we heard heavy firing five or six miles away, the army officer commanding the town could not find out where the fighting was.

A lieutenant colonel arrived, trying to find the corps headquarters to which he was attached, and the nearest division commander could not tell him where it was.

Unable to find out what really was happening anywhere, everybody in the towns where electricity still was available listened to German broadcasts and lost heart at the reports.

When nine German tanks were discovered roaring through the countryside behind the Serbian lines on April 11, word spread that the Germans were dropping them by parachute, and everyone was warned to stay indoors on pain of death, while troops and gendarmes rushed off in all the available cars to hunt the tanks and parachutists.

#### *"Tank" Cry Starts Panic*

Soldiers were stationed in houses along the village street with grenades, in case the tanks suddenly appeared. None showed up, but I saw a supply column passing through the village panicked when someone shouted "tanks," at the sound of a truck engine. Men and horses became tangled in the frightened crowd in the middle of the village, trying to get clear to take shelter.

Besides disorganization and ignorance, the shortage of modern arms and equipment was a serious factor. Many soldiers actually had their packs tied together with bits of string and their canteens hung on bits of rope. They had old British or French equipment and I saw helmets patched where they had been punctured in the past.

The only tanks I ever saw—the only kind the Yugoslavs had—were ancient Renaults, already shown to be obsolete in the Spanish war.

#### *Horse and Oxen Transport*

Most of the transport was drawn by horses or oxen. The motor transport was a heterogeneous assortment and most of the drivers were incompetent.

The Serbs said their government went on the assumption that they could fend off the German drive rather than fight it.

From past visits to Yugoslavia, I knew the supreme confidence of the Serbs that their infantry could deal with any army.

As the Poles answered all questions about defense by calling attention to the fine Polish cavalry, the Serbs relied on the brave peasant soldiers with rifle and bayonet.

Like the Poles, they are paying for their underestimate of the power of the machine.

#### *Speed Through Mountains*

The mechanized column that smashed its way through to Skoplje by the second day of the war shook the Serbian confidence more than anything else. They said they expected a Croat defection, yet that too shook them, and they had no set-up for defending themselves against an attack from the north after the Croats turned.

Exactly why the Germans were able to get through the formidable mountains of South Serbia so fast is not known, but that was the military blow which weakened the Serbs most. The lack of an efficient communications system, with Belgrade destroyed, probably was the most serious defect in their organization.

They could not have held out long against the German colossus, but without disastrous gaps in preparedness they could probably have held South Serbia, as the British hoped, and withdrawn south to add 500,000 or more to the Anglo-Greek forces trying to stem the German advance.

BY THE UNITED PRESS

*BERLIN, May 4—Following are textual excerpts from Adolf Hitler's speech today before the German Reichstag at the Kroll Opera House*

*Deputies, Men of the German Reichstag*

\*\*\*\* Most of you, especially my old party comrades among you, know what efforts I have made to establish a straightforward understanding and indeed friendly relations between Germany and Yugoslavia. In pursuance of this aim Herr von Ribbentrop, our Minister of Foreign Affairs, submitted to the Yugoslav Government proposals that were so outstanding and so fair that at least even the Yugoslav State of that time seemed to become increasingly eager for such close cooperation.

Germany had no intention of starting a war in the Balkans. On the contrary, it was our honest intention as far as possible to contribute to a settlement of the conflict with Greece by means that would be tolerable to the legitimate wishes of Italy.

The Duce not only consented to but lent his full support to our efforts to bring Yugoslavia into a close community of interests with our peace aims. Thus it finally became possible to induce the Yugoslav Government to join the Three-power Pact, which made no demands whatever on Yugoslavia but only offered that country advantages.

Thus on March 26 of this year a pact was signed in Vienna that offered the Yugoslav State the greatest future conceivable and could have assured peace for the Balkans. Believe me, gentlemen, on that day I left the beautiful city of the Danube truly happy not only because it seemed as though almost eight years of foreign policies had received their reward but also because I believed that perhaps at the last moment German intervention in the Balkans might not be necessary.

#### *Stunned by Yugoslav Coup*

We were all stunned by the news of that coup, carried through by a handful of bribed conspirators who had brought about the event that caused the

British Prime Minister to declare in joyous words that at last he had something good to report.

You will surely understand, gentlemen, that when I heard this I at once gave orders to attack Yugoslavia. To treat the German Reich in this way is impossible. One cannot spend years in concluding a treaty that is in the interest of the other party merely to discover that this treaty has not only been broken overnight but also that it had been answered by the insulting of the representative of the German Reich, by the threatening of his military attache, by the injuring of the aide de camp of this attache, by the maltreating of numerous other Germans, by demolishing property, by laying waste the homes of German citizens and by terrorizing.

God knows that I wanted peace. But I can do nothing but protect the interests of the Reich with those means which, thank God, are at our disposal. I made my decision at that moment all the more calmly because I knew that I was in accord with Bulgaria, who had always remained unshaken in her loyalty to the German Reich, and with the equally justified indignation of Hungary.

Both of our old allies in the World War were bound to regard this action as a provocation emanating from the State that once before had set the whole of Europe on fire and had been guilty of the indescribable sufferings that befell Germany, Hungary and Bulgaria in consequence.

#### *Formidable Task for Army*

The general directions of operations issued by me through the Supreme Command of the German forces on March 27 confronted the army and the air force with a formidable task. By a mere turn of the hand an additional campaign had to be prepared. Units that had already arrived had to be moved about. Supplies of armaments had to be assured and the air force had to take over numerous improvised airports, part of which were still under water.

Without the sympathetic assistance of Hungary and the extremely loyal attitude of Rumania it would have been very difficult to carry out my orders in the short time envisaged.

I fixed April 6 as the day on which the attack was to begin. The main plan of operation was. First to proceed with an army coming from Bulgaria against Thrace in Greece in the direction of the Aegean Sea.

The main striking strength of this army lay in its right wing, which was to force a passage through to Salonika by using mountain divisions and a division of tanks; second, to thrust forward with a second army with the object of establishing connection as speedily as possible with the Italian forces advancing from Albania. These two operations were to begin on April 6.

Third, a further operation, beginning on the eighth, provided for the break through of an army from Bulgaria with the object of reaching the neighborhood of Belgrade. In conjunction with this a German army corps was to occupy the Banat on the tenth.

In connection with these operations general agreement had been made with our allies, Italy and Hungary. Agreements as to cooperation had also been reached between the two air forces. The command of the German armies operating against Macedonia and Greece was placed in the hands of Field Marshal von List, who had already particularly distinguished

himself in the previous campaigns. Once more and under the most exacting conditions he carried out the task confronting him in truly superior fashion.

The forces advancing against Yugoslavia from the southwest and from Hungary were commanded by Col. Gen. von Weick. He, too, in a very short time with the forces under his command reached his objective.

The army and S. S. detachments operating under Field Marshal von Brauchitsch, as commander in chief, and the chief in the General Staff, Col. Gen. Halder, forced the Greek Army in Thrace to capitulate after only five days, established contact with the Italian forces advancing from Albania, occupied Salonika, and thus generally prepared the way for the difficult and glorious break through via Larissa to Athens \* \*

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## WORLD WAR

### BALKAN THEATER

#### "Too Many of Them"

It took Germany exactly three weeks to conquer Yugoslavia and Greece. To most of Britain, Australia and the U. S., that seemed a matter for profound gloom. But although the campaign had been lost, there were indications that after details of the Battle of Greece became known, the Greek campaign might possibly go down in history as one of the most brilliant tactical operations of British Empire arms. Although Hitler's men have not yet been stopped, this battle showed that if ever Britons confront Germans on anything like equal terms, Britain stands a good chance of winning.

The British and Greeks were beaten on the third day of fighting—with the Yugoslav collapse in the Vardar Valley. From the information so far available, it appears that from then on less than three full divisions of British-Anzac troops and perhaps five divisions of Greeks (perhaps ten Greek divisions were facing the Italians on the Albanian front) bore the brunt of the best attack that could be mounted by 40 divisions of Germans. Under these conditions the Allies had virtually no reserves except a British tank division which backstopped the line wherever it weakened. The British and Anzacs held the anchor position on the right wing at the Aegean coast where the best road and the only railroad led south to Athens. Time and again they were outflanked on the land side and forced to retire from threatened positions.

There are few more difficult military operations than fighting a rearguard action against an aggressive enemy; under the strain most armies collapse. But the British, Australians and New Zealanders fought for 18 days and 245 miles—from Salonika to Olympus to Larissa to Thermopylae to Thebes to Athens—and not once did they allow the Germans to break through their lines in any force.

This was not another Dunkirk. At Dunkirk a British Army which had been ingloriously outmaneuvered and beaten without pitched battle, escaped after abandoning its tanks, its artillery, its ammunition dumps, even its rifles.

This was not another Narvik. There the British were not outnumbered. They just arrived too late, and never established a fighting front.

In Greece there was, for the first time, a test of ready British against ready Germans, and though the odds were 4-to-1 against the British, the outcome could not be called a disaster. The British had proved themselves.

But wars are not won with return tickets. The British will not win World War II by squeezing miniature forces into defensive crannies at the last moment, and withdrawing them brilliantly. Some sardonic wit in London last week figured out what B.E.F. meant. Back Every Fortnight. There was just enough truth in this interpretation to point up the real significance of the Battle of Greece. Britons can fight, but they will not be able to make an expeditionary force stick until some way, somehow, they get enough men, enough planes and enough tanks to approximate Nazi strength.

The Flight of Kings, the tragic symbol of imminent collapse, came last week when two monarchs, Peter of Yugoslavia and George of Greece, hobbled far away from their thrones. Each uttered as he fled the anguished formulas of determination—echoes of words spoken in varying degrees of clarity by other monarchs in other defeats, by Haakon, Leopold, Wilhelm, Boris, Carol.

Peter had fled by air to Athens. There he composed his declaration—his was the only true authority, etc., etc.—and tried to broadcast it to the world. The week's most pathetic irony was that Peter's words failed to get by the Greek censor—for reasons still unknown. Then Peter boarded another plane and set out for Palestine. On the way the plane was attacked by an Axis fighter, and one of Peter's Ministers was killed. But the hurt plane reached Jerusalem, a new cradle for Free Yugoslavia.

George's flight was by steamer, from the crowded, bombed-tangled port of Peiraeus. As he left, he released his heroic, echoing formula: "... hard destinies of war ... lawful Government ... continue the fight ... resistance to the end ...". Then, by night, the steamer picked its way to Suda Bay, Crete, and King George, his brother and his Ministers proceeded to Candia, where the monarch called the first Cabinet meeting of Free Greece.

(Time, May 5, 1941)

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LONDON, May 7—Following are textual excerpts from Prime Minister Winston Churchill's statement today to the House of Commons:

This debate, as I think will be agreed on by all hands, has been marked by a high sense of discretion and a high degree of responsibility in all who have taken part in it. \* \* \*

#### *Forewarned on Balkans*

So far as the German invasion of the Balkans is concerned, we had long and ample forewarning of what was in prospect. \* \* \*

For weeks one watched remorseless movements of vast German forces through Hungary, through Rumania and into Bulgaria, toward the Croatian frontier of Yugoslavia until at least no fewer than forty German divisions, including five armored ones, were massed on the scene.

Hitler has told us that it was a crime in such circumstances on our part to go to the aid of the Greeks. I don't want to enter into arguments with experts but this is a kind of crime of which he is a good judge. \* \* \*

We cannot judge aid to Greece without the consequential effects on the position in Libya. \* \* \*

Looking back upon the course of events, I can only feel, as the Prime Minister of New Zealand so nobly declared, if we had again to tread that stony path, even with the knowledge we possess today, I for one would do the same thing again.

That is the view of all my colleagues in the War Cabinet and on the Defense Committee and I believe the view almost universally sustained by the House. \* \* \*

#### *Wants Consequences for Axis*

It remains to be seen whether the Italian dictator in invading Greece and the German dictator in coming to his rescue and trampling Greece and Yugoslavia into a bloody welter will, in fact, have gained an advantage or have suffered a loss when the full story of this war is complete even from a military viewpoint. \* \* \*

#### SERBS TAKING TOLL IN GUERRILLA WAR

**Fight on in South and Central Areas—Terror in Belgrade Fails to Halt Them—Executions In Reprisal—Nazis Said to Shoot 10, Even 20, for Every Loss—Komitaji Chief Asks Our Help**

BY RAY BROCK<sup>1</sup>

BUDAPEST, Hungary, May 9—The Serbian guerrilla Komitajis are still holding out against the German and Italian armies in Yugoslavia, waging a bushwhacking war in the night against enemy stragglers, couriers and isolated patrols in the mountains of Montenegro and Central and South Serbia and within the environs of desolated Belgrade itself.

Despite the German and Italian concentrations of more than five divisions in North, South and Central Serbia, Macedonia and Dalmatia, the war goes on. This correspondent, who alone among the journalists accompanied the former Yugoslav Government until its collapse following that of the general staff, witnessed the flight of thousands of Serbian and Montenegrin soldiers, who carried with them huge quantities of ammunition and firearms, grenades and even a few batteries of mountain guns into the mountains of Montenegro, Serbia and Herzegovina.

These soldiers, who fled only when their government had flown to Greece by British and Yugoslav planes from Risanj Niksich, intended to join the Komitajis and carry on their war to exact a last ounce of revenge against the invaders and maintain the apparently unquenchable spirit that inspired the coup of March 27, overthrowing the Cvetkovitch government, which surrendered at Vienna to the Axis.

<sup>1</sup> Mr. Ray Brock, since the time he witnessed the events in Yugoslavia, has published his book, "Nor Any Victory", Reynal and Hitchcock, New York, 1942, in which he writes about the beginning of the German occupation of Yugoslavia.

### *Disorder Reigns*

That Serbs are carrying on the war is specified in the disorder and disorganization that reigns in Italian-dominated Albania and in the fighting after nightfall in Serbia.

In Belgrade itself, where death is the penalty for venturing into the bomb-blasted city after 7 P. M., there is a daily mounting toll of German dead and wounded. There is a higher toll of Serbian lives each day in retaliation, for the Germans execute ten, sometimes twenty, for every German soldier killed, but that does not stop it.

The Germans shoot without warning in Belgrade. A young woman was machine-gunned and riddled before the Brazilian Legation the night this correspondent returned from Dalmatia. Upon her back was chalked the time of her death "8 15." As far as could be learned this woman was a harmless creature caught after deadline atop the Dedinje Hill en route to her home and running. She was unarmed.

The Germans, it seems, rarely get the Serbian Komitajis, who are nightly shooting or knifing every German who ventures away from the protection of hundreds of Nazi machine-gunners posted throughout the city at 7 o'clock.

### *Italians Woo in Vain*

The Italians in the southwest do little shooting and are still vainly attempting to woo the Dalmatians and exiled Serbs into something like friendship with the troops of occupation. The so-called Croat Guard, attired in dark greenish-brown uniforms and carrying rifles and revolvers, carry out most of the police work after nightfall. The Croat Guard's weeding-out process of countless arrests and questionings, executions and imprisonments have so far failed to make a dent in the operations of the Komitaji.

Now that Croat and Bosnian fifth columnists have come out openly with the invaders there are no more of the fatal leakages that caused the Yugoslav Army an estimated 35,000 men and, when communications were shattered the first day of the war, led to the downfall of the government, the capitulation of the General Staff and the armistice. Each operative knows his fellows. Axis counter-espionage is proceeding feebly.

This correspondent, erroneously reported killed in the early bombings of Belgrade, then reported killed at Sarajevo and Ilidza in the day-long bombings and aerial strafings, and finally reported captured by an Italian destroyer in the company of the British Minister to Yugoslavia, Ronald Ian Campbell, was at the same time with the Yugoslav Government and with Cetnik (Komitaji) leaders in Montenegro, Herzegovina and about Boka Kotorska in Dalmatia until the flight of the government to Greece and the departure of the Cetniks to the mountains.

In Cattaro Bay at Hercegnovi—where ninety-four British diplomats and nationals were captured by the Italians on April 17 at 4 P. M.—the Montenegrin Cetnik leader divulged the plan to his followers, who had preceded him to the hills near the Risanj Pass.

### *Betrayed, He Declares*

"Simovitch [Premier Dusan Simovitch] has gone," he said. "We might have expected all this if we had considered it coldly. We were betrayed, spied upon

and, in the end, defeated by those whom we trusted least—the Croats, the Bosnians and some of the Slovenes.

"The Cvetkovitch government refused again and again to provide our army with portable short-wave sending and receiving equipment. The army could not get funds for auxiliary telephone and telegraph lines

"It was chaos when it started"—he spread his hands—"not even the General Staff knew the disposition of [General Nilan] Neditch's army [the Army of the South, which defended Skolpje]

"Neditch justified all the trust and hope we had placed in him. Far better if he had joined Simovitch in a coup last Nov 5—as he wanted to do—when the Italians bombed Bitolj. Then it might have been another story. We could have knocked the Italians out of Greece and \* \* \*

The Komitaji chieftain, a man of 62 years, who fought the Austro-Hungarian Army out of the Vardar Valley in 1917 and 1918, again spread his hands.

"Simovitch must have known it was suicide if the thing we all expected happened, and it did happen. But he did the only thing any real Serb could have done under the circumstances. He fought."

The Komitaji leader paused a minute, then continued

"He is much criticized today for the defeat of the Southern Army and the fall of the government and the surrender. Well, he could be criticized truly for none of them. Simovitch is guilty of only one thing—he did what every true-blooded Serb would have done.

"The failure of communications? He had ten days after he threw out the rotten Cvetkovitch government in which to repair the damage of years. The Southern Army's defeat? Neditch fought a brave and really incredible fight and lost nearly three divisions in killed and wounded because the general staff failed to order the dynamiting of the Kachanik Pass and the German Army reached Skoplje in forty-eight hours.

"The general staff did not order the mining in time because it takes time to mine a gorge, so the mining was not completed when the Germans struck.

### *Compromise Government*

"The fall of the government was—the fall of the government. Simovitch reconstructed his government from good men and bad. It could have been a strong government if the men had remained strong. He had to make a compromise government if Yugoslavia as a State was to live.

"Matchek [Vladimir Matchek, Croat leader] failed him first. Matchek's delay in joining the government was fatal. The general staff failed next. Any army man will tell you a general staff cannot be built in a day; no, nor ten days, nor even a year. It was pushed through with old men, good enough in their day but senile to the point of absurdity when Germany struck us with the full power of her Blitzkrieg.

"Finally Nincitch [Foreign Minister Momcilo Nincitch] and the Foreign Office staff failed every one. The sheep-like flight of the Foreign Office staff is a chapter in our history which we must live down when we are free once again and independent—all Serbians."

The komitaji chief spread his hands in his characteristic gesture.

"Now," he said, "that part of it is finished. The government is gone, the army demobilized, the Ger-

mans and Italians in occupation, Belgrade all but destroyed with nearly 6,000 killed in those bombings of Sunday and Monday and the following Friday. Now we begin our war from the bush as we always have fought and as we find it. You saw them at Cetinje and Perast?"

He referred to the night when the news of the armistice became known in Montenegro and Cattaro Bay. That was the night that the soldiers began to go in two's, three's, five's and larger groups. They came into one kafana at Perast and each of them had a schlivovitz or a glass of wine. One by one they drank up, smashed the glass and left. Some of them accompanied the drink with a toast, "Zivila Serbjo!" but most of them did not.

This drinking and these departures went on until way into the morning. Reliable witnesses said the same thing happened in almost every unoccupied point in Montenegro and Serbia and even in Dalmatia and Croatia. At Mostar, where the Croats first rebelled after the Zagreb putsch, one group of Serbian officers killed thirty-two Croat ustaschi (revolutionaries) before the officers left for the mountains.

"So," continued the komitaji chieftain, "our war begins. It is a hopeless war if you like, quite impossible and quite futile if we fight alone. But I do not think we'll fight alone. Our people alone among the small peoples of Europe dared to strike a blow for liberty. Our government is destroyed, the nation split into pieces and our Serbian cities laid in ruins.

"But we Serbs feel certain that we shall receive aid from England for the underground party and soldiers still fighting in unoccupied territories, and finally from America. And so we shall go on fighting."

(The New York Times, May 10, 1941)

## OUR FRONTIER ON THE DANUBE

### The Appalling Story of Our Meddling in the Balkans.

BY DEMAREE BESS

By Radio, Berne, Switzerland.

March 27, 1941, is a date which has become part of American history. That was the day when a coup d'état overthrew the government of Yugoslavia, a Balkan country 4000 miles from our shores.

Why was this remote event so important to Americans? Because the United States Government was directly involved in it. Because a small group of Americans became chiefly responsible for the setting off of this explosion which blew apart a country in less than two weeks. Because our representatives made commitments for us which virtually established a new American frontier on the Danube River.

During last February and March, Belgrade, the capital of Yugoslavia, became the setting for a terrific struggle in war politics. The Americans who took part in that struggle accomplished everything which they set out to do. They blocked the German game in Yugoslavia which had aimed to win over the country without fighting. They persuaded the fiery Serbs to defy the Germans and thus invite martyrdom for their own country. But in order to accomplish this, our representatives gave pledges to the Yugoslavs which the latter interpreted as a guaranty that the American people would rescue their country from

whatever fate might befall it as a consequence of their defiance of Germany. Some of the principal facts of our Balkan adventure already have been acknowledged by the Americans concerned. They are supplemented here by information which I personally obtained in Southeastern Europe, where I was traveling all through this period.

Every carpenter and clerk in Belgrade knew about the American pledges given to Yugoslavia. On the day of the coup d'état the American legation in Belgrade was stormed by crowds of cheering Serbs who demanded that the American minister, Arthur Bliss Lane, should bring out the American flag. When he finally yielded to their clamor they tore the banner from his hands, and men and women trampled one another in their efforts to touch our flag and even kiss it. The Stars and Stripes had become for them a symbol of an alliance such as they had never before pictured in their wildest dreams. Later that same day, when the American minister drove through the streets of the capital, he was lifted out of his automobile and carried on the shoulders of the Serb demonstrators.

Those excited Serbian crowds were no military strategists. They couldn't be expected to understand how puny was the immediate aid which the Americans could give them. They couldn't be expected to comprehend what it meant to challenge the German armies massed on their borders—those same armies which had smashed the combined armies of France, Britain, Belgium and Holland in thirty-nine days, and which had since been idle for months, with unlimited opportunities to prepare for another blitzkrieg.

But their leaders possessed all this information, and so did the Americans who urged them on. They had detailed reports on the power of the German military machine. They were fully cognizant of the ruthlessness of the German Nazis. They foresaw that Yugoslavia must be overrun and that thousands of its people must be slaughtered, but they were playing war politics, and those who play this game must put such things out of their minds.

The Yugoslav leaders who defied Germany were gambling upon Germany's eventual defeat. They sacrificed the present and staked the future of their country upon pledges given them by the American representatives that the American people would bring about that defeat. The Americans who gave those pledges were fully aware that thousands of sea miles separate the United States from the Balkans. They knew that we hadn't yet been able to make sufficient munitions for our own defense needs and the war needs of Britain. They knew that we hadn't yet built sufficient ships in which to carry munitions, but they knew also that the Serbs possessed an almost mystical faith in the power and benevolence of the American people. They used that faith to persuade the Serbian leaders to transform their country into a battleground in the Anglo-German war. The Yugoslav coup d'état was enthusiastically applauded by many American politicians and political commentators. These Americans boasted of our share in turning Yugoslavia into a battleground. They hailed it as a great American triumph and a great German defeat. They spoke of the new anti-German front which we had helped create in the Balkans. They told of munitions which we would send to Yugoslavia across the Atlantic and around South Africa and through the Red Sea to the Suez Canal, where they could be transshipped across



the Mediterranean to Adriatic ports. It never seemed to occur to these enthusiasts that the Yugoslavs might not be able to hold off the German war machine until this help arrived. Was it possible that these Americans still clung to the delusion that Hitler could be bluffed? Was it possible that they believed that Hitler would be so taken aback by this upset in his plans that he would ignore this challenge in the Balkans? Unfortunately, there is evidence that some Americans did believe these things. Ten days after the Belgrade coup d'état, when German mechanized divisions hurled themselves upon Yugoslavia and Greece, several American political leaders announced they were "profoundly shocked," but nobody in South-eastern Europe was shocked by anything the Germans did then. The shock for these citizens in the Balkans had come when the Serbs defied Germany, because they realized then that this action made the German attack inevitable. The only question which remained was how far the Americans could and would carry out the commitments which our Government had made for us. There is more general agreement in Europe about the events which preceded the Balkan outbreak than there is about most happenings in the Anglo-German war. For once, the Germans had made their intentions crystal clear. They were trying to isolate the Italo-Greek war, to force an immediate settlement in that war before British troops could get any foothold upon the European continent. To accomplish that, the Germans wanted to come to terms with Yugoslavia. They wanted to prevent the Balkan war from spreading, because widespread war in this region, no matter how it might result, would interrupt the flow of food and other raw materials needed for the new German empire.

British strategists naturally attempted to create a division in the Balkans in order to upset this German program. Last February the Germans suspected that the British were planning to send troops into Greece. The Germans thereupon issued an ultimatum to the Greek government just before the arrival in Athens of British Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden and British Chief of Staff Sir John Dill. The Germans warned the Greeks that if they permitted British troops to land anywhere on their territory they must expect a German attack. They told the Greeks they must choose without further delay between accepting additional British assistance or accepting German mediation in the Italo-Greek conflict. This German ultimatum caused the Greeks to hesitate.

A tug of war then developed in the Balkans, with the Germans pulling in one direction and the British in another. That tug of war was decided by American intervention. It was our official representatives who broke the deadlock and upset the uneasy equilibrium which had been maintained in this region since the outbreak of the European war. The American efforts were concentrated at Belgrade, where the British proposals had been persistently rejected. The Yugoslav government headed by Regent Prince Paul had decided to make a deal with Germany in order to prevent their country from becoming a battleground. This administration had even refused to permit the British envoys to visit their capital. The British consequently washed their hands of Yugoslavia and shifted their entire attention to Greece and Turkey, but the Americans continued their efforts to

swing Yugoslavia against Germany. Our representatives began their activity at Belgrade last January, when Col. William Donovan stopped off with autographed letters of introduction from President Roosevelt. Donovan is the hard-boiled type who enjoys playing war politics. In the capital of Turkey, Ankara, I ran across an example of his technique. At a large reception in Ankara, Donovan met the French ambassador. In the presence of several persons the ambassador said to him, "We Frenchmen hope your country will send food to save France from starvation."

Donovan retorted, "The American people are prepared to starve every Frenchman if that's necessary to defeat Hitler." Shortly thereafter, Donovan's visa for French Syria was revoked. In Belgrade, Donovan told the Yugoslav leaders there was no halfway house in this war. He told them they must make a flat choice between the British-American combination and the Axis. He warned them that if they made any sort of deal with Germany the United States would regard Yugoslavia as our enemy both during and after the war. On the other hand, he assured them that if they refused to co-operate with Germany, the American people would see to it that they came out on the winning side. Donovan made a profound impression upon some Serbian leaders, although not upon those who then controlled the government. He wasn't able to show those hardheaded men how their country could defy Germany and avoid complete annihilation. But the American Under Secretary of State, Sumner Welles, took up the task of stiffening Yugoslav resistance where Donovan left off. In our minister at Belgrade, Arthur Bliss Lane, Welles had an effective agent. Lane worked tirelessly to undermine the decision of Prince Paul and his supporters to come to terms with Germany.

Nevertheless, the agreement with the Axis went through and was formally signed at Vienna. That agreement gave the Germans what they wanted without risk of military action and incorporated Yugoslavia in Germany's "New Order in Europe." It was interpreted everywhere as a resounding diplomatic victory for Germany.

But that victory endured less than two days. Before dawn on the morning of March twenty-seventh, the American activities at Belgrade bore their fruit. The Serbian leaders who had yielded to American persuasion dramatically and definitely defied Hitler by overthrowing Prince Paul and arresting the ministers who had signed the Vienna pact.

For the first time in our history the American Government thus assumed a leading role in Balkan politics. It had succeeded where the British government had failed, but in achieving its objective it made American commitments in the Balkans the consequences of which are unpredictable.

The sensational move at Belgrade undoubtedly was popular with the Serbian people, although not so popular with the other races who constituted Yugoslavia. The enthusiastic demonstrations at Belgrade were not duplicated at Zagreb, the capital of Croatia. While the exuberant Serbs shouted defiance of Germany, the Croats awaited events in sober silence.

Meanwhile the Greek leaders had also made their decision. Influenced by vigorous American representations at Athens, they rejected German proposals for a negotiated settlement of their Italian war and accepted British offers to land troops at Greek ports.



The Greek military attaché in Berlin had warned his government that the German armies could shatter Greek resistance in three weeks, but his superiors at Athens were persuaded that with British and American help they could withstand Germany as they had withstood Italy during the previous five months. In any case, they had pledges from both the British and the American governments that they would share generously in the victory when Germany was eventually defeated.

Repercussions from Belgrade and Athens extended immediately far beyond the Balkans, reaching out to all German-occupied countries, where restless peoples had been subjected to Nazi rule. All these peoples watched breathlessly to see what would happen in Yugoslavia and Greece, what Americans and Britons would do to support their open challenge to the German dictatorship. This was a showdown and every European knew it. The United States Government has openly acknowledged its responsibility for forcing this showdown in the Balkans. If our officials expected that showdown would be delayed, then they badly miscalculated. The German blitzkrieg upon Yugoslavia and Greece was more than war. It was a punitive expedition. It was designed to show not only the Yugoslavs and Greeks but also every other people in Europe that swift punishment inevitably follows any defiance of Germany and any complicity with Germany's enemies. It was designed to show that Britain and the United States are powerless at present to back up any promises which they make to any country on the European continent. The German destruction of Belgrade was a purely punitive measure, comparable to the French destruction of Damascus in 1926. There was no military necessity for the excessive bombing of Belgrade; the German armies could have occupied this capital as easily as they occupied Zagreb. But Belgrade was the capital of the Serbs, who had yielded to British and American inducements. Its destruction was a demonstration of Germany's ruthless intention to strike down revolts wherever they may appear in Europe. It was an object lesson not only to the Yugoslavs but to all the subject peoples in Germany's new empire. Since last June I have been traveling continuously in that empire. I have learned what the Germans mean by their "New Order." They mean that the European continent—all of it—is regarded as an imperial system under German domination. They mean that every country in Europe, as long as that system endures, must choose between becoming a German stallite or a German colony.

The Yugoslavs were given that choice. Some of their leaders were willing to accept the satellite status as the price of peace, and signified that willingness when they signed the Vienna pact. When those leaders were overthrown and defiant leaders replaced them, the Germans embarked upon the task of breaking up Yugoslavia and transforming it into a group of colonies.

When the German armies struck at Yugoslavia and Greece, the German leaders believed they were entering upon the final phase of erecting their "New Order in Europe." When they had smashed these two defiant countries they believed that their new empire—constructed at such unprecedented speed—could easily bring into line every country on the Continent, as ally, satellite or colony.

Since this war began the Germans have been carrying out two tremendous tasks simultaneously. They have been fighting their war and they have been building their empire. Because the war is more dramatic, it has monopolized world attention, but Germany's empire building is no less important.

From June, 1940, until April, 1941, Germany's land armies did no fighting, but millions of German soldiers were unceasingly busy during all that period. What were they doing? Some of them were practicing for future campaigns, but others were helping consolidate their new empire. They were building fortifications in a dozen European countries, designed to withstand internal as well as external assaults. They were swiftly disarming the peoples of occupied countries. They were going to create colonial conditions in Europe.

The fate of this new empire depends upon the outcome of the war, but the outcome of the war also is likely to be influenced by the success of the empire building. To this end, Germany has enlisted the work not only of all civilian Germans but also the labor of millions of non-Germans who are toiling under German supervision. Many of these workers are engaged in supplying the German war machine, but many others are devoting their whole time to imperial projects. Ever since the fall of France thousands of German experts have been making and applying plans for the co-ordinated exploitation of European labor and production. They have been figuring out how to grow crops everywhere in Europe which will make the Continent as self-sufficient as possible. They have been classifying the food reserves of all countries and allocating them where they may best serve the German interest.

They are unifying transportation systems by building new links. They are arranging barter trade agreements between all European countries, with Berlin as the central clearinghouse. They are reorganizing financial systems to disregard gold backing.

German political experts also have been working day and night. They have redrawn the map of Europe, taking territory from some countries and giving it to others. They have created entirely new countries, such as Slovakia and Croatia. They have partitioned France and Rumania and Yugoslavia. They have obliterated Poland. Unlike the winners of the last World War, they are making territorial, economic and political adjustments while they are still waging war—and thus they have given large European groups a vested interest in ultimate German victory.

Of course, this empire building has also aroused hostilities as bitter as any created by German warfare itself. Millions of Europeans have been dispossessed and other millions have been placed under native governments which they despise and hate. But the Germans have taken harsh measures to paralyze these hostile millions. They have organized elaborate police and espionage systems in every country and they have used their native converts to ferret out potential revolts. They have struck ruthlessly wherever and whenever sabotage or opposition appeared.

The very ruthlessness of these police methods also has unified the German people as nothing else could have done. The Germans are too intelligent not to know that whole races are in a mood to massacre the Germans if ever they get the chance. Many German citizens have never favored Nazism and many early

supporters of the party were repelled by some of its later excesses, but fear of what defeat would mean for every German has united them all today, steeling them to fight on inexorably and desperately for victory.

That was the condition in Europe last March when Yugoslavia and Greece defied Germany. The Germans had turned Europe into an empire at breakneck speed and with utter ruthlessness. That empire was so new it was still very shaky. It was full of hatred and potential rebellions and it was subject to all the strains imposed by a desperate war. The German empire builders could keep their new colonies in line only by convincing their peoples that revolts were hopeless and sure to prove fatal. That was the situation when our American representatives undertook to stage our first direct challenge to Hitler's new empire. By selecting the Balkans as the place for doing this, they carried the war into a region which Hitler considered his own sphere of influence. The German dictator was compelled, whether he desired it or not, to meet this challenge. We had forced a showdown, and we got it without delay.

As far as the Anglo-German war was concerned, the conquest of Yugoslavia was merely one small episode, but as far as Americans were concerned, the happenings in Yugoslavia were of first-class importance. Our intervention in the Balkans has carried our foreign policy another long step forward. Commitments made for us there swept far beyond "measures short of war." They exceeded the limits of mere "aid to Britain." They pledged us to save Yugoslavia and Greece from incorporation in Germany's New Order.

How can we possibly carry out pledges made for us in the Balkans? According to the unanimous testimony of American observers on the spot, we can do so by nothing less than all-out war against Germany. The American people have traveled a long road since they abandoned neutrality. We have permitted our Government to take one belligerent step after another, while most of us have persistently clung to the hope that Germany's imperial schemes could be thwarted by such half measures as food blockades, aerial warfare and the encouragement of revolts inside Germany's new empire.

We have even credulously accepted so-called expert opinions that insurrections against the Nazi regime would explode within Germany itself. We have naively watched for indications that Soviet Russia would stab Germany in the back.

But if we have underestimated the velocity of the German hurricane, we have not done so for lack of storm signals. Because of the peculiarities of modern undeclared warfare, hundreds of Americans have been permitted to remain inside the new German empire long after the United States reached the stage of undisguised hostility to Germany. Most of these Americans are specialists who were sent to Europe for the purpose of getting specific information which we needed. They include diplomats, military attachés, journalists, oil technicians and businessmen. In the course of my travels I have met most of these American specialists and have discovered that they have had one common experience which has bewildered them: When they sent warnings to their home offices that Germany was successfully consolidating its new empire, they have found themselves in the

unhappy role of the couriers of ancient kings. In older days, it will be remembered, when the king's messenger brought him unwelcome news, the king cried, "Off with his head!"

In our country, where the people are king, they, too, have demanded to hear only what they wanted to hear and have shouted for the annihilation of their own messengers who brought them unwelcome reports. And many of our political leaders in Washington have followed the same procedure.

One of the ablest American journalists in Washington recently paid a brief visit to Berlin. I met him there and asked him what kind of news the Americans were interested in getting from Europe.

"That's easy," he informed me. "Any story which suggests that Germany is on the verge of falling on its face gets a big play. Any story which intimates that Germany is still formidable gets short shrift, both from the editors and the public."

Another of my friends, who served in Berlin for several years as a representative of our Government, told me he was delighted when he was transferred to another post this spring. His chances for promotion, he explained, were gravely retarded as long as he remained in Germany.

"How's that?" I asked in surprise. "Isn't Berlin the most important post in Europe today?"

"Yes," he replied, "but my work requires me to make political reports, and that means my curve is more likely to move down than up. When I predict another German success my curve goes down, because my superiors don't want to believe such predictions. But if I were to take the opposite line and predict German failures, my curve would go down anyway, because events would prove me wrong."

I have repeated that conversation to American Government representatives in several European countries, and in almost every instance they have told me, "We are up against the same problem. Too many of our Washington chiefs have made up their minds about Europe and resent being confronted with reports which disturb their theories."

One favorite theory in Washington has been that the German empire can be overthrown by half measures. Our American specialists in Europe have attempted, in the face of repeated rebuffs, to reveal the fallacies in that comfortable theory. They have insisted that Germany was steadily consolidating her European empire until it had reached a point where it was not likely to be shattered by anything less than all-out war. And what does all-out war mean? It means an expeditionary force landed somewhere on the European continent. It means an expeditionary force vaster, more costly and more dangerous than any known in the past. Will American soldiers be called upon to take part in such an expeditionary force? The answer seems to be implicit in recent events. We have permitted ourselves to be transformed into an "arsenal of democracy," and we've tried to gloss over the fact that our arsenal includes men as well as machines and money. We have committed ourselves more and more deeply in Europe. Last March our representatives pledged us to rescue Yugoslavia and Greece. There is little evidence in Europe that such a rescue will be possible without American soldiers.

The Saturday Evening Post, May 24, 1941.

## WHO KILLED YUGOSLAVIA AND GREECE?

The current Saturday Evening Post leads off with an article entitled "Our Frontier on the Danube," and subtitled "The Appalling Story of Our Meddling in the Balkans."

The article is by Demaree Bess, whose reputation as a foreign correspondent is good.

Gist of Mr. Bess' report is that the United States Government was "directly involved" in the Yugoslav revolution which resulted in Yugoslavia's scrapping of its nonaggression treaty with Hitler, which in turn resulted in Hitler's destruction of Yugoslavia as a nation. Also, that "vigorous American representations at Athens" induced the Greeks to take on Hitler's blitzers after six months of fierce Greco-Italian fighting and while that war was still going on. This led to the downfall of Greece as a nation.

Starring in the story told by Mr. Bess are Col. William J. (Wild Bill) Donovan, as Mr. Roosevelt's unofficial ambassador on a trip last winter through the Balkans and the Near East, and Arthur Bliss Lane, American Minister to Yugoslavia.

Colonel Donovan arrived in Belgrade in January. Quoting Mr. Bess:

"In Belgrade, Donovan told the Yugoslav leaders there was no halfway house in this war. He told them they must make a flat choice between the British-American combination and the axis. He warned them that if they made any sort of deal with Germany the United States would regard Yugoslavia as our enemy both during and after the war. On the other hand, he assured them that if they refused to co-operate with Germany, the American people would see to it that they came out on the winning side."

Donovan didn't convince the then leaders of Yugoslavia that the British or the Americans could furnish enough help in time to enable Yugoslavia to beat off a German blitz. Minister Lane, however, carried on Donovan's drive to win the Yugoslavs over; and in this, says Bess, he was backed by Undersecretary of State Sumner Welles.

Came the Yugoslav treaty with Germany, on March 25. On March 27, came the Yugoslav revolution, with Serbs in Belgrade storming the American legation, demanding that Lane bring out the American flag, and, when he did so, trampling one another in a stampede to touch or kiss that gallant banner. The Serbs thought we were formally their ally, and that we could promptly deliver enough planes, tanks, guns, etc., to enable their dauntless fighting men to give Germany a real fight.

### *Some Results of Some Diplomacy*

The immediate result of all these goings-on or at any rate the immediate result of whatever it was that impelled Yugoslavia and Greece to defy the axis—was the German onslaught which pulverized Yugoslavia. An unnecessarily savage bombing of Belgrade was one of the episodes of this fight.

The next result was the German-Italian mashing of Greece, with a British expeditionary force suffering the worst defeat to British arms since Dunkirk. Germany is now reported methodically bleeding Greece white, and treating the Serbs with as much cruelty and terror as the Germans have been dealing out to

the Poles ever since they knocked over Poland in September, 1939.

Other results, says Mr. Bess, are still to come. These results will be what you would naturally expect from the fact that the Yugoslavs and Greeks believed the United States to be their ally, and still believe it.

To them, the first round in the fight has been lost; but they are expecting that the power and majesty of the United States will be in the fight until Germany is licked and Greece and Yugoslavia are restored to their former independence and a good deal more than their former territorial extent. If we don't make good, our prestige in that part of the world will be sunk.

We've been committed by our roving diplomats to restore and guarantee the integrity of two countries in the southeast corner of Europe—something which nobody has ever been able to do before. Or so says this report published by the Saturday Evening Post. We have no means of knowing at first hand whether this story is true. But the Post is a responsible magazine. If it had not had good grounds for believing the story true, it would not have printed it.

Maybe we'd better make it Four Ships for One.

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(Editorial)

Washington Times-Herald, May 26, 1941.

## LINDBERGH ASSAILS ROOSEVELT SPEECH

... By the time Mr. Lindbergh began speaking it was estimated that 6,000 others were gathered outside the Arena. The crowd appeared to be several thousand greater than that which heard Mayor La Guardia last night.

Occupying the speaker's platform with Mr. Lindbergh were Mrs. Kathleen Norris, novelist, and Senator David I. Walsh of Massachusetts. Mr. Lindbergh was introduced by Isaac A. Pennypacker, an attorney, who heads the Philadelphia branch of the American First Committee. . . .

... The speaker said that last Winter the interventionists again told this country that England was winning, and that they had hailed the Yugoslavian episode with enthusiasm as "the turning point of the war."

### *Cites Yugoslav's Defeat*

"They told the people of Yugoslavia to fight, and they promised that the resources of America and England would carry them to victory," he went on. "The Yugoslavians believed, and fought and died. Then came the fiasco of Greece, and now it is Crete.

"Always the same story—one defeat after another since this war began. And always the demand for more assistance from America. First they said, 'Sell us the arms and we will win.' Then it was, 'Lend us the arms and we will win.' Now it is, 'Bring us the arms and we will win.' Tomorrow it will be 'Fight our war for us and we will win.'"

At this point Mr. Lindbergh declared that it was time for the American people to "ask where we are going." . . .

The New York Times, Friday, May 30, 1941.

## LINDBERGH VS. WILLKIE

Collier's in the last few weeks has had the honor of publishing articles by Charles A. Lindbergh and Wendell L. Willkie on opposite sides of the most important question now tormenting Americans.

Mr. Lindbergh took the so-called isolationist view of the European war and the United States' relation to it. Mr. Willkie took the interventionist, all-aid-to-Britain view. Our opinion of the two articles is that historians of later years will consult them as these times' most succinct, concrete and eloquent statements of these clashing interpretations of this war and what it means to us all.

Collier's belief, as we stated in editor's notes attached to both articles, is that Mr. Willkie is right and Mr. Lindbergh is wrong.

Lindbergh believes in American defense first and last, and fears that further extension of the aid-Britain policy will draw us into the war and eventually send another A.E.F. streaming across seas to fight, die and probably lose the war anyway. Willkie believes in helping Britain to the limit of our abilities with ships, planes and convoys, if necessary, and that British air and sea superiority can eventually beat Hitler without the need for huge expeditionary forces for large-scale invasions of Europe.

The great majority of our readers, we infer, from a multitude of letters, are of two minds concerning the war: (1) They favor all possible aid to Britain without stripping our own defenses; but (2) they do not want the United States to go officially into the war, or to draw down a Hitler declaration of war against itself. We believe that is the majority American opinion at this time.

Up to this writing, we've been able to do just that. We've helped England; we've stayed out of the war officially. But can that comparatively happy state of affairs go on indefinitely? What if we find that it can't? What do we do then—quit helping England, or get into the war?

Yugoslavia was faced with a like choice. It chose to line up with the enemies of Hitler, the enemies of totalitarianism, though Yugoslavia was rubbed out as a nation twelve days later. The proceedings included a German air bombing of Belgrade, which is said to have killed 10,000 persons, after Belgrade was declared an open city. Why the Yugoslavs made this choice was explained afterward by their minister to the United States, Constantin Fotitch, in a letter to the *New York Times*.

Some nations, small and large, have never divided their liberty with others, even with incomparably stronger oppressors. They identified liberty with life. They preferred to fight for it even against impossible odds rather than accept an agreement under compulsion. Throughout history these were the same nations. For example, the Poles and Yugoslavs have always lived either in complete liberty or in slavery, while the Hungarians and Rumanians were satisfied with fictional liberty within the Turkish and Germanic empires.<sup>1</sup>

The time may be coming when we shall have to decide whether we want to be satisfied with what Mr. Fotitch calls fictional liberty, within a world-wide

Axis orbit, or whether complete liberty is valuable enough to us to fight for it.

We hope that time may never come. But there isn't as much ground for optimism as there was two months ago. Since then, the Allies have fought the terrific Battle of the Balkans, the Axis has paraded back along most of the North African coast, taken last winter by General Wavell's Anzacs, and a real Axis threat to Britain's Mediterranean control has built up.

Suppose the Axis does just that. It won't necessarily have won the war. Mr. Willkie says positively that England can lose the Mediterranean and still win the war—IF American ships and planes, tanks and guns, get to England copiously enough and fast enough.

But a British loss of the Mediterranean would transfer the main battleground of the war to the Atlantic, where Mr. Churchill has long said it would eventually be anyway. It would release a lot of Axis planes and submarines to prey on Atlantic shipping, in addition to the swarms of them already sinking enormous tonnages per week. And it would ease Hitler's path to Dakar on the western bulge of Africa, nearest Eastern Hemisphere port to South America.

What would we choose to do then?

We cannot believe that the spirit of human freedom would crawl off to some hole, curl up and die quietly, simply because Hitler said it must.

(Editorial, *Colliers'*, May 31, 1941)

## YUGOSLAV ENVOY REPLIES

### Mr. Fotitch Cites His Record in Answer to Critics

<sup>1</sup> It is interesting to include here the letter which Mr. Fotitch wrote to the "*New York Times*" on January 31, 1944, explaining the attitude of the Yugoslav Embassy in Washington during the Yugoslav crisis of March, 1941.

*To the Editor of The New York Times:*

Lately, in a campaign against the Yugoslav King and Government, several American writers have written in violent terms about me in my capacity as Yugoslav Ambassador to the United States. Although I am confident that well-informed officials and students of the international situation know very well, step by step, how Yugoslavia aligned herself with the Allied cause and the nature of my personal efforts during that period, I think it would be most unfortunate for the less-informed American public to receive a distorted idea about this matter. Therefore, I rely upon your kindness that in the interest of truth and a well-informed public opinion you will allow me to outline just a few of the principal facts.

I was not appointed here by the Government which signed the pact with the Axis countries, as was stated, but was appointed to the United States in 1935 by the Stoyadinovich Government. At that time the policy of collective security was on the decline and I, among others, was considered to be too much a man of Geneva and too open a sympathizer with the Powers which supported the League of Nations to be kept in my post at Geneva.

<sup>1</sup> Your attention is directed to P. 135 for full text of this letter.

### *Against Tie With Axis*

In the days of the Yugoslav crisis, February and March, 1941, I did everything that was possible in my official capacity to convince our Government not to make any agreement with the Axis Powers which would endanger the independence of our country and break the traditional ties with our historical allies.

The Government of Prince Paul and Cvetkovitch became less and less firm in resisting Axis demands, and everyone expected that any day it would make an irreparable and fatal agreement which would endanger Yugoslavia's future. At this point I considered it my duty to the Yugoslav nation to take steps contrary to those which would be expected by the Cvetkovitch Government. I went to the British Embassy to discuss what could be done to preserve the natural friendship between the Yugoslav nation and Great Britain. On the concrete side there was still at least the possibility of preventing the Yugoslav merchant marine from serving the Axis interest. This was achieved by an order which I sent on March 25, 1941, to all Yugoslav vessels in American ports not to sail from these ports without special authorization. The owners and crews of these vessels cooperated with me fully in bringing about this objective.

At the same time I sent a telegram to our Minister in the Soviet Union, Dr. Milan Gavrilovich—one of the strongest anti-Axis statesmen of my country—asking him what steps he would take as Minister to the Soviet Union and what he was expecting me to do. Previously I had asked the United States Government what measures should be taken to prevent the national funds from falling into the hands of the Axis. The Cvetkovitch Government had already transferred ten million dollars from the United States to a South American republic in view of utilizing them, once collaboration with the Axis began.

### *Visited State Department*

Receiving an answer from Moscow in which our Minister, Dr. Gavrilovich, told me that he had decided to submit his resignation and that he thought I should do likewise, I went to the State Department here and informed the Under-Secretary of State that I was ready to send my resignation to my Government so that I could better represent the interests of my people in an independent position. I was advised not to take these steps immediately in order that we might exhaust the last possibility of convincing the Yugoslav Government that it should take a firmer attitude toward the Axis. Only thirty-six hours later the popular uprising which occurred March 27, 1941, in Belgrade overthrew the Government and made it unnecessary for me to carry out my earlier decision. As a result of my attitude I was attacked by Axis propagandists and was denounced in the official German White Paper.

I made no visits to the German or Italian Embassies, but as was natural for a Yugoslav patriot, I acted in close touch with the Governments of the three natural allies of the Yugoslav nation. This was the climax of the efforts which I had been making over a long period to further the long-range interests of my country, and I think, as I look back, I can say in all modesty and with pride that I fulfilled my patriotic duty. In answer to those who accuse me today of being a Serbian chauvinist, I can only say that, acting

impartially in the interest of all Yugoslavs, I have done more in a few days, not only for the Serbs but as well for my fellow-countrymen from Croatia and Slovenia, than many of my attackers could do in a lifetime.

### *Met General Nedich*

Also, I am sorry to destroy the story of my relationship with General Nedich. He is not my first, nor my second cousin, and the last time I met him was accidentally during the funeral of King Alexander in 1934. After that, although I was in my country every summer, it just did not happen that I tried to see General Nedich, even though he was not considered pro-Nazi at that time.

One writer has cited a phrase from an article which I had published in *The New York Times* April 23, 1941, trying to show that I was in accord with General Nedich. It is superfluous to say that in April, 1941, no man in the world could have known that General Nedich would accept the pro-Nazi leadership of a quisling Government in Belgrade. It is not surprising, therefore, that even seven months later a Yugoslav writer in *Foreign Affairs* stated that General Nedich was trying to persuade the Cvetkovitch Government to declare war on Italy before Italy invaded Albania.

Just to put everything in its proper place, I must destroy another legend repeated very often by my attackers, who say that I am both part Jewish and anti-Jewish. The truth is that I am not even part Jewish, which I would of course regard as no hardship, and the fact that I have no personal feelings against the Jews should be clear from the fact that I have always had, and still have, many Jews among my very best friends. I know that racial feelings have never interfered with our friendship in the slightest degree. On the contrary, in carrying out my work I have had many times to defend the Yugoslav-Jewish cause, which I did conscientiously and with warm sympathy.

### *Denies Arrest of Dr. Cicin*

Finally, some writers criticize the fact that I am the Ambassador from a Government in which the Minister of Finance, Dr. Ivo Cicin, is alleged to be under arrest for former collaboration with the enemies of my country. In connection with this, I can only say that I do not know personally Mr. Cicin, who enjoys great respect for his patriotic past in his native Dalmatia, but I know very well that Mr. Cicin was never arrested, and that he has brought judicial suit against the papers that started this false accusation.

I will close this letter by stating that all I have been trying to do as Ambassador of Yugoslavia to the United States, and what in a modest way I think I have done, has always been guided by the sincere desire to serve my country and to unite her cause with the cause of the democratic countries, considering this the only way in which the Yugoslav nation can accomplish her part in our common civilization.

CONSTANTIN FOTITCH,  
Ambassador of Yugoslavia.

Washington, January 31, 1944.

(*New York Times*, February 6, 1944)

## SCORN OF NAZI PRESS DIRECTED AT WELLES

### Statement That Yugoslavia Was Dismembered Draws Gibes

BERLIN, June 5 (UP).—German spokesmen and newspapers unleashed a blast at the United States today in which the protest by Under-Secretary of State Sumner Welles that Yugoslavia had been dismembered by force was described as "grotesque."

Apparently taking advantage of a momentary lull in the war, the press took the United States to task for "leading the Serb people along their disastrous path." Reichfehrer Hitler's newspaper, the Voelkischer Beobachter, said American official "indignation" was "one of the funniest things we have experienced in this war."

"Beginning with Colonel [William L.] Donovan," said the Nazi spokesman, "United States policy has done nothing else than provoke and prepare for the invasion of Yugoslavia. Germany could scarcely be expected to watch with folded arms while preparations were being made for a repetition of the events of 1917 and 1918 through Yugoslavia."

"Sumner Welles can certainly be assured that a large proportion of guilt for events in Yugoslavia lies at his side."

The Voelkischer Beobachter said that Mr. Welles' note was "no longer the unusual Anglo-American hypocrisy, but actually robbery of the corpse."

The government radio commentator accused President Roosevelt of "betraying the American people to British seducers" and asserted that the President was not interested in the freedom of the American people.

"Our freedom is higher, cleaner and happier than that of the democracies," he said. "We hold it holy and will defend it."

The Boersen Zeitung attacked United States Secretary of the Navy Frank Knox as "one of the leading agitators of the American war party" and declared that when Mr. Knox spoke of freedom of the seas he meant "command of the seas."

The New York Times, Friday, June 6, 1941.

## FATE OF YUGOSLAVIA

Since the collapse of military resistance in Yugoslavia all of that nation has become occupied territory. A portion of it, however, has been set up as a separate entity under the name of the "Independent State of Croatia" and given an Italian princeling as its hereditary ruler. All the Yugoslav government can do at present is to protest, and this it has vigorously done through a statement by Dr. Constantin Fotitch, its Minister in Washington. The protest is clearly intended for the record. So is the response made by Mr. Sumner Welles, the Under-Secretary of State, in which he reiterates "the indignation of this Government and the American people at the invasion and mutilation of Yugoslavia by various member states of the Tripartite Pact."

The ultimate fate of Yugoslavia will not be decided by such diplomatic exchanges. The time when any such hope could be indulged has long since passed. The fate of Yugoslavia, like the fate of Norway and Poland and the Low Countries and all the other captive nations of Europe, depends on the outcome of the

struggle between Germany and England. It is this struggle, also, in which the United States is manifesting such vital concern. It involves every country, every people, no matter how distant they may be from the theater of war. So far as this Nation is concerned, we now have definitely linked our fortunes with those of the embattled British and their allies, including the Yugoslavs. The message to Dr. Fotitch is an indication that the United States has not forgotten the small nations whose sovereignty has temporarily been extinguished—that we are not prepared to recognize these German conquests. In this respect it is a further wedge driven between the United States and the Third Reich.

(Editorial)

The Washington Post, June 6, 1941.

## U. S. CORRESPONDENT TELLS THE UNCENSORED STORY OF BELGRADE'S BOMBING

### "Open City" Completely Unprepared For German Attack, Says Leon Kay

BY LEON KAY

NEW YORK, June 26—This is the uncensored story of the bombing of a city that was not prepared.

When the German Luftwaffe struck at Belgrade without warning on an April Sunday morning it was like an earthquake except that the bombing went on for hours.

Houses fell. People died and were mutilated. They fought with their fists for precious automobile tires and gasoline. They saw their business quarters blown to pieces and watched fortunes vanish in the dust of ruined buildings.

There had been an alert at 3 a. m., but it turned out to be a practice alarm. No one thought the Germans would bomb Belgrade for it had been declared an open city. Most of them went back to sleep, but I stayed up to try to put through an urgent telephone call to Zurich. I was sitting on a chair with my typewriter on a small table when suddenly a basket of artificial grapes flew off the top of a piano and crashed on the floor in front of me. Then a pile of terra cotta ash trays bounced to the floor and broke.

That was the first I knew about the raid.

Then I heard the bombs whistle and I knew it was the real thing.

I was in my pajamas. The door burst open and three wildly frightened women ran into the room—the landlady, her sister and daughter. I told them they had better go downstairs, for we were on the fourth floor of a five-story apartment house—not a very safe place.

### *Didn't Wait to Dress*

I grabbed for my clothes and the building began to rock. There was a wardrobe door in my room and it vibrated so fast it sounded like someone was playing a snare drum. I decided not to wait to finish dressing, so I grabbed my money, shirt, shoes, socks, vest, a topcoat and a bottle of rum and left the room.

By this time the first wave of bombers had come over. We didn't know it then, but four more were on their way. Nobody seemed to know where he was going, and all of them were covered with thick gray dust from ruined buildings.



Then the second wave came over.  
With some sort of animal instinct, I pulled my top-coat over my head.

#### *Child's Clothes Torn*

Two buildings next door were afire and a big hotel on the plaza down the street had been hit. Smoke poured into the narrow street so thickly I couldn't see a fountain near by. Out of the smoke a child, about 3 or 4 years old, came toddling toward us. Its clothes were torn, its face was smudged, and it was crying. Three or four of us ran out and picked up the child whom we turned over to a policeman who came into the apartment vestibule.

The third wave came over.

We looked out after it passed and saw a bundle of bloody rags moving through the dust. It was a man. The policeman looked around for some way to get the man to the hospital and decided to use a peddler's cart standing outside the apartment. Despite the peddler, the policeman and I dumped the oranges out and put the wounded man in the cart. I gave him a drink of rum. The policeman took a drink, too, and I made it unanimous. Then the policeman, pushing the cart, disappeared in the dust.

The fourth wave came over.

There didn't seem to be anything we could do. There were no air-raid shelters in Belgrade. By this time six explosive bombs had fallen within half a block of us and I decided to get out of the city at the next lull. Incendiary bombs had started fires spouting up all around the apartment house.

The fifth wave came over.

A dud bomb crashed through the asphalt in the street about 50 feet away from me. Then there came a lull and I dashed down the street to a garage, where I had arranged to buy a car. The building had been smashed and every automobile in it was ruined.

I decided to go to the home of the American minister, about a half-hour's walk away. I had to shield my face from the heat thrown off by fierce fires on each side of the street, but I hung on to the bottle of rum and ran as fast as I could. I came out to a main street. Bodies were scattered around. A soldier lay flat on his back, still holding his rifle at shoulder arms. A streetcar blazed. Sputtering trolley wires were down, throwing off smoke and electric flames.

Broken glass lay on the street, two and three inches deep in some places. I found that I couldn't make any forward progress. I would take a step and then slip back on the glass. The sun was coming up as I finally struggled out of the glass.

Any of the stricken, frightened people who thought that their ordeal ended with the five waves of the first raid were disillusioned. I heard planes again, and knew the second raid was on.

#### *Horse In Frenzy*

I got off the main street into a narrow thoroughfare. Climbing over a pile of rubble, I saw a man driving a horse along ahead of a small milk cart. I ducked into a small doorway just as a bomb made almost a direct hit on the cart. The man was killed and the cart went up in dust. The horse had a large wound in his shoulder, and began charging up and down in the narrow street that was blocked at each end by piles of rubble. For a moment I was more afraid of the horse than of the things that rained out of the sky. I ran

or one end of the street, but the horse blocked my way. I ran back to the shelter of the doorway and the horse charged past. After a couple of tries I managed to slip out one end of the street while the horse was at the other end.

I arrived at the American minister's home and found that the house next door had been hit. A man trying to escape had got his automobile half way out of a garage when he was struck.

The minister, his wife and their staff had crawled under a grand piano and built a shelter of pillows and rugs in case the house caved in on them. I joined them and the minister's wife poured a double brandy for all of us.

Just then the American military attache drove up and said he was going to the center of the city to destroy some documents in his office. I went in with him but he told me to go outside and watch the automobile.

I soon understood what he meant. People were desperate for transportation and were willing to fight for tires or gasoline. People threw their bundles on top of our car and tried to climb inside it. I chased them away. One man tried to rip off a front tire and I chased him away. Then somebody took the cap off the gasoline to siphon our gasoline and I chased him off.

Actually, I fought people away from the car for half an hour. Finally the military attache, who planned to join the Yugoslavian general staff, came out of his office and we drove away.

People along the streets were fighting and struggling for automobiles, carts, anything on wheels. We drove through the fighting crowds to my apartment house. It had caught fire and half of it had burned away.

(Washington Times-Herald)

#### **"THE GERMANS ARE COMING"**

BY CECIL B. BROWN<sup>1</sup>

Cairo, Via Transpacific Air Mail

We had picked our way through one mined section of the winding clay strip which passed for a highway in those Bosnian hills with the care of a chicken crossing the road. We were pretty certain we would encounter a few more stretches of sudden death. Behind us we had left the scattered, confused and beaten Yugoslav army, escape cut off and resistance suicidal. Ahead of us somewhere was the German army, the monstrous Wehrmacht, rushing toward us from Croatia to complete the encirclement of Yugoslavia.

Our objective was to meet the German attack head-on, penetrate the Nazi lines, and somehow thread-needle our way through them to Belgrade. We were Lt. Col. Louis J. Fortier, the American military attache to Yugoslavia, and this correspondent for the Columbia Broadcasting System.

<sup>1</sup>Mr. Cecil B. Brown, since the time he witnessed the events in Yugoslavia, has published his book "Suez to Singapore", Random House, New York, 1942 (reprint Halcyon House, 1943), in which he writes about the beginning of the German occupation of Yugoslavia.



While Fortier hunched over the wheel, eyes peeled for the telltale fresh patches in the road which might indicate mines, I kept popping my head out of the window watching for Stukas and Messerschmitts. I kept one hand on the door handle ready for a quick leap into the roadside ditch. Ditch diving from car doors came naturally to me by that Tuesday morning, April fifteenth last. During the previous nine days I'd been chased and bombed all over the map of Yugoslavia—from Belgrade, Vrnjacka Banja, Uzice, Sarajevo and beyond. You get very adept at spotting better 'oles from a moving car under such circumstances.

Seven miles out of Travnik, a hundred feet ahead, Yugoslav soldiers suddenly appeared on each side of the road. Colonel Fortier jammed on the brake, we lurched crazily and the car skidded to a stop. A revolver darted into Fortier's face, a rifle was aimed at my ear. A soldier with a tommy gun stood in front of the car in case there were any misses. The Yugoslav lieutenant spoke French, badly but understandably. Our identifications satisfied him—but the guns stayed in our faces.

The young officer was jittery. "What is happening?" he demanded, his voice almost hysterical, unnaturally high. "We are ten men here. We have been completely cut off for two days. We have no radio and no messages have reached us. Our food is gone. Are our troops holding in the south? What of that jackal Mussolini? Has he entered Croatia? Is that true?"

We told him as best we could.

"You cannot go on here," the lieutenant said. "Last night, I blew up the bridge at Doš Vakuf. The road ahead is mined. I personally mined that road. I will fix those Germans."

So we turned back to Travnik.

There we lunched with Gen. Petar Nedelkovitch, commander of the pitifully shattered Fourth Army. As we walked into his office, his telephone rang. His aide-de-camp handed the general the phone.

A tragic and majestic figure, General Nedelkovitch. Three days before, this rotund, heavy-faced, mild-mannered, fifty-nine-year-old general himself had been engaged in hand-to-hand fighting with the German invaders. Two of his four staff officers had been killed in bayonet battles with the Nazis. These men were Serbs. General Nedelkovitch had seen 40 per cent of his troops killed, and 50 per cent, all Croats, desert or refuse to answer the call to arms. As we stood looking out of the window at the 10 per cent remnant of the Fourth Yugoslav Army, General Nedelkovitch took the hardest blow of his forty years in the army. He handed the phone back to his aide. He said nothing for a minute. There seemed to be some difficulty with his throat.

"That was General Kalafatovich. He ordered me to cease all resistance immediately. An armistice has been signed. I am told to await the arrival of the Germans." Then he added quietly "Everything has been lost, but honor has been saved." A fitting description of Yugoslavia's eight terrible days.

As we left Travnik for the second time that day, General Nedelkovitch said: "You will not meet the Germans for another twenty-four hours."

We met and were taken by the Germans exactly one hour later.

Two miles beyond the point where earlier in the day we'd been stopped by the young lieutenant and his handful of guerrilla fighters, we turned under a railroad trestle and swung around a bend. A small, tan army car swerved in front of us. We stopped, radiator to radiator. In the other car were a Yugoslav captain, a hulking sergeant with an enormous handlebar mustache, and a nondescript private. The sergeant, a man of forty-five, was on the ground in an instant, rifle in hand aimed at us.

"Americanski! Americanski!" we shouted.

The three men were almost feverish. The captain jerked out "Run for your lives. The Germans are coming."

In a week I'd been pushed out of half a dozen towns, amid scenes of military confusion, with that same phrase: "We must go, the Germans are coming!"

The Yugoslav captain dashed upon the railroad trestle, his binoculars to his eyes, and peered up the valley. He called down "The Germans will be here in a few minutes!"

The sergeant drew his finger across his throat. That, he indicated, was the treatment we could expect from the Nazis.

They tumbled into their car, and away it shot. In that cloud of dust were the last Yugoslav soldiers I saw carrying a gun.

#### *Tommy Guns, Rifles, Grenades—for Us*

We pulled to the side of the road to wait for the Germans. Half a dozen natives ambled out of the three houses near the sort of courtyard where we were parked. They examined the American flag jutting up from the right fender as though they never before had seen the Stars and Stripes.

I think it was those natives who gave us the first warning. All at once they were no longer there; the courtyard was strangely quiet.

Colonel Fortier, in uniform, sat behind the wheel. We grasped our door handles. Fortier tugged at his Army cap, settled it more firmly on his head. We grinned at each other. Not a wide grin, but it would do. Fortier took up a can of cigarettes.

A moment later four motorcycles, each carrying three men, came along at about twenty-five miles an hour. It seemed those black machines and gray-green figures might roar by us. Then the driver of the first glanced over his shoulder. One hand shot up in signal. In two seconds all motorcycles screamed to a stop. They were forty feet away.

In a second, twelve burly German soldiers were off the four motorcycles. Three of the Germans charged toward us with tommy guns. Two others were running with their rifles, drawing the bolts, whipping the sights up to their eyes. And two other troopers were leaping across the forty feet, their right arms drawn far back, ready to hurl hand grenades.

Fortier and I jumped out of the car, yelling: "Amerikanische! Amerikanische!"

As they bore down on us we advanced toward them, shouting we were Americans. And then Fortier persuasively called out: "Have an American cigarette." That stopped the Germans cold.

#### *Quelling the Invaders*

The tommy guns covered us, but the fingers on the triggers momentarily froze into immobility. Eyes sighting along two rifles lost that peculiar, squinting intentness that precedes the action of the trigger fin-

ger. The grenade-throwing arms paused at the apex of the swing, the wrists unflexed and the long-handled grenades began to droop like wilted morning glories.

"Who are you?" shouted one of the tommy gunners. His English was just about perfect.

"We're Americans." Fortier repeated his offer. "Have an American cigarette."

"Certainly! Ja! Ja!" They took the whole can.

We had "conquered" the advance point of the German invasion of Bosnia.

A round-faced lieutenant of about twenty-four thrust himself forward. His flat steel helmet almost concealed his sweat-beaded eyes. In his right hand a Luger was just then slipping back into the holster. He saluted Colonel Fortier snappily and asked us to identify ourselves. We did.

"Have you benzine, Herr Oberst? We have urgent need of it."

"Yes," the colonel said. "We've some gasoline, but not very much."

"Very good. If you will give it to me, I will give you a note to Major Hildebrand. You will meet the column fifty kilometers back. There, the petrol will be returned to you."

"Fifty kilometers!" Fortier exclaimed. "Do you mean your supporting column is fifty kilometers in the rear?" The lieutenant said that was correct.

Two of the men pulled out a twenty-five-liter can of gasoline from the rear of our car and lugged it over to their four motorcycles, unguarded in the road.

Three of the twelve men in that motorcycle unit spoke excellent English. Four others understood it tolerably well. All were keyed up, tense and tired to an almost inconceivable degree. One of the drivers, in his long rubber coat, gas-mask container dangling in front of him, looked more dead than any dead man I saw in Yugoslavia.

I offered this apparition of fatigue a cigarette. He refused, curtly. "Too tired." His eyes were sunken deep into a dust-caked face. One of the Germans, a tall, husky, smiling chap, told me he'd been educated in England. It was difficult to tell him from an English boy—except for that squad helmet and gray-green uniform. He'd fought in Poland, fought in Flanders and now was fighting through Yugoslavia. At twenty-one, he was a hardened veteran. I wondered if he wasn't tired by now.

"Yes, we are all quite tired. We have been without sleep sixty hours."

"No," I said, "I mean, you've been at it for more than a year and a half. Aren't you somewhat tired of fighting?"

He answered softly: "I don't say that. But I wish I could be back home in Germany. I should like to rest for a time."

I asked him how close we had come to getting shot.

"Very close," he smiled. "You see, our job is to shoot first and afterwards see if we have made a mistake. I do not know how it is. I did not use my tommy gun. But the others apparently were affected the same as I—the strange flag on the car, the corps diplomatic tag. It was a surprise. We did not expect to find Americans here."

"Well," I said, "we almost were not here any more."

He screwed up his face a bit confused, then laughed: "Ah, yes, I see what you mean."

One of them wore a strange uniform, a German uniform, but different. He was a Croat and he ques-

tioned the people living in the houses. I noticed that one of the soldiers with a rifle in his hands and a grenade in his belt was still poking around the three houses. One of the Germans asked me where we had passed the Yugoslav troops.

"Oh," I lied, "I haven't seen any since last night."

Fortier asked them if they knew the war was over. They were frankly skeptical. This, thirty hours after the Yugoslavs had been ordered to lay down their arms. "We know nothing about an armistice," the lieutenant said. "As far as we are concerned, we are still fighting with Yugoslavia."

I thought of General Nedelkovich and his staff at Travnik, just half an hour away. They had ceased resistance. But to these tensed, trigger-quick boys a Yugoslav soldier, armed or unarmed, was still someone to mow down. I wonder what happened to General Nedelkovich when these twelve motorcyclists rolled into Travnik.

We'd delayed the German advance fifteen minutes. The Nazi lieutenant said they'd have to be off. "You will have no more trouble," he added. "You will shortly meet our column. There you will get the petrol."

They waddled over to their motorcycles, lugging their tommy guns, rifles, hand grenades, gas masks, ammunition belts, binoculars. The first wavelet of the monstrous German mechanical wave rushed onward.

Ten minutes later, we drove slowly by a line of eight Yugoslavs tramping along the dusty road. Their coats were open, their arms no longer encumbered by rifles. A German trooper escorted them. The lieutenant who had blown up the bridge and mined the road—"I will fix those Germans"—led the group. His head was erect. He didn't respond to my greeting.

Outside of discarded clusters of rifles and smashed ammunition boxes along the road there were no other signs that this was battleground. Since Travnik, I had not seen a single Yugoslav field-piece or machine-gun emplacement, although the country was perfect for a rear-guard action. The narrow road corkscrewed among the hills so that there were dozens of places where a machine gun, or even a few one-pounders, could command it for some time.

But this was pushover country for the Germans; they were sweeping through. These beautiful hills should reasonably have been bristling with guns, but no Yugoslav gun disturbed their sylvan tranquility.

Five miles beyond our first contact with the Germans we were stopped again. A railroad bridge across the river at Dol Vakuf had been blown up. This was the bridge dynamited by the young Serb officer the night before.

A German lieutenant—he was actually a Croat in Nazi uniform—and two soldiers rushed up to the car with guns. "Who are you?" he demanded in German.

We answered in French that we were Americans, had met the advance point and had a note to Major Hildebrand for the return of gasoline.

He curtly demanded our identification. He glanced through our passports, then snorted: "You are my prisoners."

"Prisoners! What for? We're Americans."

"Americans and English," he retorted. "They're all the same. They are all spies!"

"This is ridiculous," Fortier said. "I am the American military attache at Belgrade, and this man represents the Columbia Broadcasting System of America."

"C'est la guerre," the German-Croat replied. "Have you guns with you?"

"Yes," Fortier said. "I have a Colt .45."

"Give it to me."

"I can't do that. It is the property of the United States Government."

"I am sorry. This is war."

### *Traitors Under Every Rock*

Protesting was useless. The gun was under my seat. I got out of the car to lift the seat. I tugged at the gun; it was jammed under the seat frame. The Croat pushed my arm with the remark he would get it. I shoved him out of the way, saying I could handle it. His face flushed with fury, but he did not interfere. I yanked out the gun and passed it over to Fortier. The colonel took out the clip and then handed the weapon over to the Yugoslav traitor.

"I point out to you," Fortier said, "that gun is the property of the American Government."

"I understand that." He stuffed the Colt into his pocket and went off to superintend the efforts to remove pieces of the bridge from the road. The Germans were building a by-pass and had Yugoslav prisoners moving rocks and planks. We were told that when the by-pass was completed we would be taken to Major Hildebrand. Two soldiers, ordered to guard us, stood a few feet behind the car, their rifles in the crook of the arm.

At this small village, Dol Vakuf, I saw the fifth column at work. Traitors had crawled out from under every rock in Yugoslavia. But at this place, with their deliverers at hand, they were no longer furtive saboteurs. Around the car stood six of these fifth-column Croats. Five of them were boys of sixteen or seventeen in civilian clothes. They carried rifles almost as big as themselves and a pocketful of shells. Each wore a Nazi arm band, the swastika more hooked than ordinarily, sewn on at home in preparation for Der Tag. They were puffed with sudden authority.

### *The Main German Advance*

The sixth, a man of forty-five, was a big, brutish type, the small-town bully who had never group up. These were the types who, the moment the Germans arrived, slipped on their Nazi arm bands, grabbed a rifle and murdered loyal neighbors they'd already picked out for vengeance.

There were only a dozen motorcycle soldiers in this town, but there was one Gestapo agent. He sat at a table at the side of the road. With the aid of a Croat fifth columnist, he questioned each native of the town. Some were ordered under guard. These were the suspiciously loyal Serbs and Bosnians. Others, whom the Croat vouched for, stood apart without guard.

We'd been delayed an hour. In that time not another German soldier had advanced in support of the two dozen we had seen thus far. No planes had yet been overhead. When the by-pass was completed, two Germans on motorcycles escorted us toward the main German advance approaching somewhere among the winding hills ahead. One carried Fortier's gun in his hand.

Half a mile long, we passed two hundred bicycle soldiers, pushing their machines stolidly through the dust at about a four-mile-an-hour pace. Their helmets dangled at their belts, sweat and grime covered their faces. Each was bent half over to support the weight of his rucksack. Ten of the men carried tommy guns, about twenty had automatic rifles slung over their shoulders, the others, ordinary rifles and a pistol. One of the men pulled and another pushed a two-wheel frame with bicycle tires mounting a one-pounder. Their ammunition belts were full. Their short boots with gaping tops had a hand grenade stuck in each one. They were so loaded down they waddled. Yet they moved steadily with a rhythmic swing that denied their obvious fatigue. These troops appeared destined for the job of establishing some kind of field-communication center.

Around a bend, we ran smack into the real Wehrmacht—the first of the seemingly endless stream of mechanical monsters that is the German army. We swerved sharply to the road shoulder to avoid a collision with a twenty-two-ton tank.

The tank driver slammed on his brakes. The wide snout dipped down, and the equally wide rear kicked four feet into the air like a bucking bronco. But the tank was stopped within ten feet. Those tanks, with their gun jutting out in front, are wicked-looking creatures, especially when they are bearing down on you at forty miles an hour.

That was their speed. Roaring and groaning and rattling by, the black behemoths monopolized almost the entire road. Sticking out of the turret of each was a black-clad crew member holding a red-and-white circular disk fastened on the end of a stick. With this, he signaled to a teammate in the tank behind or the tank ahead to maintain road discipline. They rushed down the road in a single, roaring file.

These steel monsters recalled an ironic picture of the Yugoslav army. Just a week before, driving in a pelting rainstorm at three in the morning from Vrnjacka Banja to Uzice, we'd passed 1500 ox carts hauling supplies and ammunition to the front. Yugoslav ox teams moved at about three miles an hour.

These tanks were coming down from Croatia, their guns unsoiled by a single shot. The Croats' defection and desertion had forced the Serbs to withdraw from the entire area, burning and blowing bridges behind them, their main force completely out of contact with the Germans.

In the three-hour ride from Dol Vakuf to Jajce, a matter of forty or forty-five miles, we breasted two Panzer divisions and one motorized division.

Shortly after the first battalion of tanks passed, faster units came whizzing along. There were two dozen armored cars, most of them six-wheeled vehicles carrying two machine guns and six men.

Four of the men were armed with automatic rifles and hand grenades. There were four more rifles in upright racks.

### *Parade Through Bosnia*

Among those armored cars were two motorized anti-aircraft units. Every tank, armored car, truck and officers' car carried a huge Nazi flag, draped across the radiator, visible from the sky.

As these units pounded along, the first German plane I'd seen in twenty-four hours roared overhead.

at about a thousand feet. It was a yellow-nosed Junkers '87 bomber, unescorted by fighters, flying its solitary way.

At the rear of the stream of armored cars came a six-wheeled passenger car, high tonneau, without doors or top, with three officers. One of the motorcyclists "escorting" us leaped into the middle of the road. The car wasn't stopping and he jumped out of the way to avoid getting run down. He yelled "I have prisoners, American prisoners!"

A beefy, red-faced officer with a monocle and tight-fitting uniform, turned and shouted something at the trooper.

The soldier announced solemnly "That was Major Hildebrand. We are to take you to divisional headquarters at Jajce."

The equipment passing us, as we darted into gaps in the line to gain some ground against this tide of rumbling iron, was all painted a flat black, which caught not a sliver of the sun's glare. No camouflage, just the dull, lifeless black, with tiny, yellow insignia denoting regiments and divisions on the front fenders. Each vehicle bore the white-stenciled letters WH—Wehrmacht. One or two low, black passenger cars came by us with LH—Luftwaffe. Motorcyclists—something like sheep dogs keeping the flock in order—wove in and out of the column as road discipliners and dispatch carriers.

The German soldiers appeared to be veterans. Many wore Iron Crosses. All these men—actually most of them seemed to be boys—wore that hard, mature look of individuals who have seen their bullets plowing into the flesh of other men.

Somehow I expected the soldiers manning the inhuman flame-throwing units to be monstrous apparitions. They weren't. They sat in their trucks, blond and young, dressed in some sort of rubberized coat with their helmets held in their hands, very prim and apparently fascinated by the fishing possibilities in the brook that tumbled beside the road.

I presumed that their equipment had seen service. But it did not show unusual signs of wear or deterioration. The motors hummed, only rarely did I see even a dented fender. Shovels, picks, guns, tow ropes, hand grenades, ammunition—all were tucked into their proper places. In the troop transports, the soldiers, monotonously alike under their helmets, sat erect as the trucks bounced their way through Bosnia. You couldn't escape the overwhelming impression that this might be war, but these troops seemed to be passing in review, en route to maneuvers. In fact, this whole procession of three gasoline-consuming divisions impressed me like nothing so much as a parade.

Occasionally we passed a wrecked Yugoslav truck in the ditch. German soldiers were removing everything usable—tires, motor, canvas tarpaulin, seat cushion. Half an hour before Jajce, we passed our first fieldpieces—truck-drawn 105's, moving at a steady forty miles an hour. We passed about sixty of them in the last stretch of the drive into Jajce. Squat-nosed mortars and 105's—plenty of both—were the only types of fieldpieces I saw.

Jajce is a Bosnian town, beside a cascade of incredibly blue water. Sportsmen and diplomats used to come here to rest and relax. Now there was neither rest nor relaxation. The Germans were there. Girls tossed flowers to the Germans in passing motorcycles, trucks and transports. The soldiers caught

them and returned ear-bridging smiles. Crowds lined the streets, their right arms outstretched awkwardly in a gesture they'd learned in a few minutes. Many wore Nazi arm bands. The Nazi flag fluttered from almost every house and building. A German army band was thumping out the Horst Wessel song in the town square.

We had to wait at the bridge which crossed to the town proper. Retreating Serbs had blown it up, but the Germans had built a temporary wooden bridge, which sagged badly at one end, atop the caved-in iron structure. The bridge, however, supported the twenty-two-ton tanks at a two-mile-an-hour speed. A full 500 tanks, armored cars and trucks were backed up through the town and into the country waiting to cross and take the road we had just come over.

### *Guests of the General*

Colonel Fortier, his American Army uniform attracting comments among those anxious-to-please, newly-converted civilian Nazis, was taken across the bridge by one of our guards. He talked about ten minutes with General Stempl, Herr Kommander of the advance toward Sarajevo. Fortier came back grinning—and carrying his Army Colt .45.

"We're the general's guests for tonight," he said.

As we drove across the bridge General Stempl stood stiffly at attention, watching his tanks, trucks, artillery and sidecar motorcycles inching their way across the shaky span. Stempl, a slim, competent-looking man of about fifty-five, with a humorless face and a smart uniform adorned by three medals, ordered a lieutenant to jump on the running board of the car and escort us to headquarters. This was a hotel built in the style of an English manor house, grotesquely out of keeping with the architecture of the town.

At dinner, Lieutenant Kocher explained in German that he was very sorry, but he neither spoke nor understood English. So much to be regretted, but this phase of his education had been neglected. Ten minutes later Lieutenant Kocher was called away for a few minutes. I remarked to Fortier: "The Germans must think we are fools if they expect us to believe them stupid enough to put an officer who doesn't speak English with Americans."

"We'll try to trip him up," Colonel Fortier suggested.

Later, Lieutenant Kocher escorted us to a bedroom especially prepared for us, with an orderly to fill any of our requests. Fortier gesticulated wildly, attempting to explain how he'd like our tattered map pasted together again so we could better follow our route to Zagreb. Lieutenant Kocher suddenly said in good English, "I will have it fixed and ready for you in the morning." Then he smiled, flushed and said: "Good night."

In our room we confined our conversation to banalities, feeling that there was a recording machine tucked away somewhere.

At 5:30 the next morning we stepped into a hotel courtyard bustling with activity. Around three sides were ranged sixty-five vehicles—a few tanks, a dozen trucks, a score of motorcycles, and passenger cars for officers. One column already was beginning to crawl across the bridge out of Jajce toward Travnik.

One of the Nazis turned on a radio. Music from Berlin, to be followed by the news. Other troopers

were brushing their teeth at the fountain in the courtyard. Some shaved. Unlike the Italians, who start growing a beard as soon as they start for the front, all were clean shaven.

Other soldiers in the courtyard were blackening their boots though they'd be light yellow with dust in ten minutes. I saw no good boots—they sagged, warped and lifeless. Several lieutenants moved about briskly, like worried hens, seeing that everything was in readiness for the imminent appearance of their superiors. All the men appeared bright-eyed and cheerful. I don't recall seeing in all Yugoslavia a German soldier who engendered the thought: There's a gloomy one.

Everywhere I went in Yugoslavia, especially in Belgrade, where they were as thick as flies in a Balkan restaurant, I saw German soldiers who were earnest, intent, all concentration on the terrible, murderous job of war. They saw it as the job at hand; they were at it hammer and tongs.

### *Bucking Army Traffic*

Motorcycles began roaring into the yard. The main column apparently was preparing to move on, followed shortly by General Stempl and his staff—and, of course, the Gestapo.

General Stempl had assigned a corporal to ride with us and expedite our passage from Jajce to Zagreb, 180 miles. Fortier reminded Corporal Hans of the gasoline we had given the motorcyclists. As we started out, Hans stopped us at one of the many gasoline supply trucks. The Germans not only filled the twenty-five-liter reserve can we carried but also poured thirty-five liters into our tank, filling it. They refused payment. "If you've another tank," they said, "we'll fill that also." It was good gasoline, orange colored and high test. Fortier said it was better than the gasoline we had given the Germans.

For the next eight hours of that day, Wednesday, April sixteenth, we faced a steady tide of tanks, artillery, trucks and troops. Only rarely, perhaps not more than three times among those hundreds and hundreds of motorized units, was there a tank or truck with motor trouble.

We passed about a hundred horse-drawn carts, pulling supplies, ammunition and field kitchens. The horses were not very good; some seemed strangely thin. There were two other striking facts about those vehicles. Many of the harness trappings were made of rope, and not leather. And many of the troops with the wagons were thirty-five to forty-five years old. These soldiers lolled in their wagons, unconcerned about making a smart appearance.

Still the troops came, truck after truck filled with steel-helmeted men. Long lines of bicycle troops pumped along, hunched over the handle bars to center the weight of the bulging packs. Then the engineers, with long trucks and equally long trailers to support huge bottom-upped pontoons, girders, mammoth jacks and long sections of pipe. Occasionally there were khaki-colored captured Yugoslav trucks, part of the 1000 trucks Yugoslavia bought from the United States shortly before the war started. Now these trucks had German drivers and a hastily painted WH on the fenders.

We passed half a dozen regiments of infantry, heavily weighted, their faces muddy from the dust

mixing with sweat. Some we passed at eight in the morning. I don't know how early they started their march, but certainly not before six. Already they seemed tired.

Without the German corporal the trip would have taken at least two days. In many places there were narrow bridges, one-way traffic. Our corporal guide, at the many bottlenecks in the road, got out and ran up to the lieutenant or captain commanding the section.

"You must pull over and permit this car to pass. I have orders from General Stempl to get these men to Zagreb without delay."

Once a captain protested he could not delay, he was behind schedule now. The corporal continued respectful but firm. "These orders are from General Stempl. They are very clear." Everywhere they were obeyed. The steel monsters dutifully crouched in ditches until our car rolled by. One lone car bucking the German advance, and that car flying the American flag. Several times some of the passing Germans made some ribald remark and pointed at our flag. But there was surprisingly little of that.

I asked Hans about that—Hans from Dresden, carrying a camera, like almost every German soldier.

"Oh, they are just joking. Germans like Americans."

"And Nazis? Do they like us too?" He flushed and said nothing.

On we went through Banjaluka, where Serbian dynamiters had left the wide bridge across the Vrbas River a broken, twisted thing under water, through Bosanka Novi and Sisak. Now that we were in Croatia, children came running out throwing out their hands and yelling "Heil Hitler." Yugoslavs yesterday, Nazis today.

In all these villages, mingling with the German troops, were the Yugoslav deserters—Croats who still wore their uniforms, marked now by a narrow insignia of blue-white-and-red ribbon tacked on the front of their peaked hats. The Germans didn't pay much attention to them.

At Zagreb headquarters, a colonel gave us a pass to Belgrade. At five the next morning we started. We ran into Hungarian troops continuing occupation of a delineated section of Serbia. These troops seemed terribly unsure of themselves, but had modern, unused equipment. There were no tanks, just armored cars and trucks.

### *Slow Ferry*

At Zemun, across from Belgrade, where the Danube and Sava rivers join, the famous German efficiency was nonexistent. The Serbs had blown up all bridges across both rivers, isolating Belgrade from the north and the northeast. The Nazis were operating a ferry service, but the ferry could transport only ninety-six vehicles in twenty-four hours. Trucks and officers' cars were lined up for two miles. Colonel Fortier asked the captain in charge if we could get across without delay. Yes, we could go in the ferry after the next one.

The captain was called across the river to Belgrade. The lieutenant who took over his authority said we must wait. It was then six in the evening. Another officer said he had been waiting for thirty-six hours to get his column of trucks across.

When the captain returned from Belgrade after four hours, Fortier complained about our being forced to wait. The captain turned on the lieutenant.

"What do you mean," he screamed, "by trying to run this thing? I gave you orders!" You could almost see the lieutenant's skin peeling off his back. "What do you mean by keeping the military man of another country waiting so long? That's how we make enemies! See that the Americans go on the next ferry."

We didn't, though. The high command in Belgrade ran out of patience with the delays. An order came over that they needed immediately all the radio and communications trucks. So we waited seven hours to cross. I asked one officer why they didn't build a pontoon bridge. (I'd seen German newsreels showing how quickly the Germans could throw a bridge across a river.)

"Oh, we can't do that here. It would block navigation." The officer wasn't quite correct. There was no navigation on the river; it has been mined by the Serbs to prevent German and Hungarian attacks by boat. A week later, when I managed to get transportation from Belgrade to Budapest, a pontoon bridge was just then being thrown across the Danube—by the Hungarians. The excruciatingly slow ferry across the Sava was still being operated by the Germans.

(The Saturday Evening Post, August 23, 1941)

## LEASE-LEND BILL AND ACTIVITY IN YUGOSLAVIA WERE U. S. BLOWS UPSETTING HITLER SCHEDULE

BY JOHN T. WHITAKER

*Foreign Correspondent of The Star and  
Chicago Daily News*

The United States has dealt two crippling blows to Adolf Hitler which have upset the grand strategy of the German general staff and gained time for Uncle Sam. Germans appreciate the true significance of these moves better than Americans. Both were bold, both were based on a comprehension of strategy, and both knocked the German timetable haywire.

The most important of the two is undoubtedly the lease-lend bill. This measure baffled the imaginations of the Germans and confronted Hitler's generals, for the first time in their carefully prepared war, with the likelihood of German defeat. Indeed that likelihood seemed a certainty when my German military sources feared that it would be followed by prompt American entry into the war.

German reaction to this measure can be illustrated best by quoting Hitler's most important cabinet minister. This individual spoke frankly to a leading statesman of one of the Axis satellite countries, a man I have known for years, a man I vouch for as entirely trustworthy.

*"We Have Lost War!"*

"My friend, we have lost the war," said the German cabinet minister, who suddenly burst into tears in the midst of a serious business conversation. "I can think of nothing else. You must forgive me. You can write in your diary that we lost the war the day

the American Congress voted the lease-lend bill. I cannot sleep because of that measure.

"I bear a grave responsibility before my Fuehrer. I told him that Britain's empire could not mobilize enough gold. We had a seven years' advantage in rearmament. I said there wasn't enough gold in the British Empire to buy enough arms to overcome that advantage. I made a careful study of British resources, not only her gold assets but her export capacity."

The German cabinet minister blew his nose, straightened himself in his chair and continued, according to my informant.

"We knew that America would sell Britain arms, of course. But we never dreamed that America would give arms. The lease-lend bill gives Britain the arms she didn't have the resources to buy. That bill saves Britain and it saves America. It means the defeat of Germany. These filthy Americans . . . We knew that they would sell for gold and gain. We never believed that so materialistic a people would give arms."

### *When a German Weeps*

The Germans are notoriously unstable emotionally, especially since the mystically religious experience of National Socialism which offered them the vision of a master race standing as the conquerors of the world. This cabinet minister's bad moment must be somewhat discounted consequently. Like all bullies, the Nazis blubber when the going gets too hard.

I quote him at length, however, because his pessimism is not unique. I have heard the same sentiments brought from Germany by a score of reliable informants who have talked with the important men in control at Berlin. In the spring there was deep pessimism in the German capital for fear that America would enter the war, and it was in this mood that Hitler's generals made the final decision to invade Russia in preparation for a long struggle against America.

America's second crippling blow against the Nazis came in the Balkans in a country called Yugoslavia, thousands of miles from America's shores. To understand what America did there and how it upset the Nazi timetable and drove Hitler against Stalin, it is necessary to re-examine the Greek campaign.

Before Premier Mussolini invaded Greece, Hitler had carefully outlined to his Axis partner—Italy had not then been occupied as a subject province—the grand strategy for winning the Mediterranean, the Middle East and Africa. Hitler planned to line up the French and drive Gen. Sir Archibald Wavell back on Cairo and the Nile, counting on Marshal Rodolfo Graziani's Italian army to serve as one prong of the pincers. Hitler himself was to provide the other prong by taking over not only Rumania, Hungary and Bulgaria, but the whole of the Balkans, including Yugoslavia and Turkey. Suez would be plucked like a plum.

### *An Open Door to India*

Simultaneously revolt in Iraq and a flopover in Iran were expected to complete Britain's collapse in that theater and leave the door open to India. Russia, under threat of German invasion, could be induced to join Germany and Japan in the dismemberment of India. It was all very grandiose and, for



as good a military and diplomatic machine as Hitler's relatively easy

Italians and Germans in Rome talked very freely about these schemes in that period. Adopting a manner of "helpful and friendly" intimidation, they explained to me that the Axis would have bases against the United States and South America along the whole of the African coast, Russia and Japan as allies, and Russia and Africa as the raw materials reservoirs for war against America if the fifth column did not achieve the destruction of American morale.

Having been promised Greece as part of his loot, Mussolini did the dirty on Hitler. He jumped the gun. Thinking that he had bribed the Greek generals to offer only tokens of resistance, Mussolini attempted the invasion of Greece with seven Italian divisions, fighting in rain and snow-covered mountains against 15 Greek divisions. Hitler met Mussolini at Florence for one of their many conferences, but at dawn of the morning Hitler was to arrive, Mussolini started the Greek offensive.

The story of that heroic resistance is now history—as moving and inspiring as Thermopylae. And on top of the Greek disaster, Wavell, with a mere handful of hard-fighting freemen, destroyed Graziani's desert army and Hitler's pincer prong. Italian morale collapsed completely and irretrievably.

Hitler then decided that Mussolini was no fit or trustworthy partner in the dangerous business of looting the world. Hitler moved into Italy, effectively occupying and subjugating the country, though, as a man of political genius, the Fuehrer kept Mussolini on as a kind of gauleiter.

Since neither Britain nor America could attack him, Hitler's situation, while annoying, was in no way perilous. He took up the same plans with patience. He placed a division of 1,500 German dive bombers around the Straits of Sicily. He moved two divisions to Libya. The planes took a toll of British ships; the panzer divisions reconquered Cyrenaica and re-established the Nazi prong for the ultimate pincers movement.

Then Hitler went to work on the Balkan pincers. After Rumania and Hungary, then Bulgaria went into the Nazi camp. Hitler turned the pressure on the Yugoslavs and their statesmen traveled to Berlin. With Yugoslavia lining up for Hitler, Turkey had to come into the German system or, badly armed as she was, face a two-week blitz war.

Time pressed, however, because Hitler had to get through Turkey and organize a drive through Syria and Palestine to Egypt before the weather turned in Libya and Cyrenaica. In a few weeks the Eastern desert would be too hot. Men in tanks would fry like eggs on a griddle.

#### *Yugoslavs Upset Timetable*

It was in this moment that Yugoslavia upset Hitler's timetable. Col. William J. Donovan, a special emissary of President Roosevelt; Arthur Bliss Lane, the American Minister, and Col. Fortier, the American Military Attache, talked with Yugoslav politicians. They could promise virtually nothing. It was reasonable to assume that America would ship arms to Yugoslavia—provided Yugoslavia resisted long enough for the arms to reach that distant country in time.

The Yugoslavs made their own decision. They preferred to die on their feet as free men rather than to live on their knees as Nazi serfs. They gambled that ultimately America, not Germany, would win the war. They gambled that in the event of American victory Yugoslavia would be resurrected.

Yugoslavia was destroyed and the Germans were particularly ruthless, bombing town after town and turning machine guns on peasant men, women and children. But the Yugoslavs upset Hitler's timetable. Turkey stiffened and Hitler could not take that country, Syria and Palestine before the weather changed in Libya. Hitler had a fling at Crete, but that operation, even while it was in progress, became an effort to secure his flank as he invaded Russia, not a stepping stone toward Syria.

Thanks to American diplomacy and Yugoslav heroism, the Middle East is still secure. American tanks are landing there today. American planes are being flown there. If American aircraft carriers and pilots can aid the British in the coming moment of crisis Suez may prove the ulcer which saps the strength from Hitler.

Washington Evening Star, September 5, 1941.

### **CONQUEST IN YUGOSLAVIA**

#### **U. S. Minister Gives First Official Account of Belgrade Bombing and Revolution Which Preceded Nazi Assault on Balkans Last Spring**

BY ARTHUR BLISS LANE

*Arthur Bliss Lane, U. S. Minister to Yugoslavia since 1937, is a career diplomat who has served the State Department for 25 years in Rome, Warsaw, Berne, Mexico City and numerous other capitals in both hemispheres. Last March he was at his post in Belgrade during the startling coup d'etat which touched off the Nazi drive through the Balkans. He stayed on through the air bombardment of the Yugoslav capital, returning to the U. S. via Lisbon in July.*

*Herewith Mr. Lane gives the first authoritative factual account of a much-discussed and generally misunderstood episode in World War II. Mr. Lane has asked the editors of LIFE to inform readers that payment for his article will be turned over to the Yugoslav Minister in Washington for war relief.*

On September 27, 1940, Germany, Italy and Japan signed in Berlin what is known as the Tripartite Pact, which, according to the published text, provides that the signatories will come to the aid of one another in the case that one of them is attacked.

It was the Yugoslav Foreign Minister, Mr. Alexander Cincar-Markovitch, who first advised me of the existence of the Three Power Pact when I called on him in Belgrade at 12.30 p. m. on September 27, 1940. He had just received an official account from Berlin of the signature of the pact. The Minister, who at that time apparently had no inkling of the possibility that some day Yugoslavia would be given orders to sign the same pact, informed me that it was purely for the purpose of intimidating the U. S. While the Minister of Foreign Affairs would be considered the normal official from whom to obtain information regarding the attitude of the Yugoslav Government, I



also followed the practice of talking from time to time with the Minister of the Court, Mr. Milan Antitch, perhaps the closest friend of Cincar-Markovitch, and who, because of his position, had closer contact with Prince Regent Paul than any other Government official. I found Mr. Antitch to be an excellent source of information, because through his mannerisms he often gave me a picture of what the Court and, consequently, the Government had in mind. When I asked Mr. Antitch on October 2, 1940, what his opinion was as to the signing of the Tripartite Pact between Germany, Italy and Japan, he evidenced surprise, as though the significance should be apparent to anybody. On pressing him, he gave me the same answer which I had received from Cincar-Markovitch, namely, that the purpose of the pact was to intimidate the U. S. Other high officials gave me similar information.

The last conversation I had with Mr. Cincar-Markovitch was on March 22, 1941, at 6:30 p. m. On that morning I had received unsatisfactory information from Prime Minister Dragisha Cvetkovitch about Yugoslavia's attitude in the face of German pressure. His evasive answers left me in grave doubt as to whether Yugoslavia had not already capitulated. On that Saturday evening, therefore, I reminded Mr. Cincar-Markovitch of what he had told me the preceding September regarding the real purpose of the Tripartite Pact. I expressed my personal opinion that Yugoslavia's adherence would be an unfriendly act against the U. S. Mr. Cincar-Markovitch threw up his hands and said, in French, "How do I know what the purpose of the pact is? Only Germany knows that." I replied, with some bitterness, "I am surprised that Your Excellency would sign a pact of which you admit you do not know the scope." That was the last conversation that I had with any member of the Government of Prime Minister Cvetkovitch.

In view of recent accusations that the Department of State and the American Legation in Belgrade meddled in Balkan affairs, the foregoing is of importance: If one is accredited to a government which from all outward appearances is about to sign a pact acknowledged by its responsible officials to be directed against the U. S., is the U. S. diplomatic representative expected by the American public supinely to accept the situation, or should he, in defense of the prestige of the U. S., make representations?

On March 23 I had my last interview with Prince Paul, during the course of which he admitted that he had until midnight to decide whether he would sign the Tripartite Pact. He gave me to understand that my official relations with him were virtually at an end. I left his palace with a distinct feeling of depression, for I felt the die was already cast, and not for the good of Yugoslavia. The next day Prime Minister Cvetkovitch and Foreign Minister Cincar-Markovitch left by special train for Vienna to sign the Tripartite Pact. On March 25, 1941, the pact was signed in Vienna.

Before I relate the events which quickly followed the signing by Yugoslavia of the Tripartite Pact, it is well to have in mind that on Feb. 13, 1941, Messrs. Cvetkovitch and Cincar-Markovitch left Belgrade for the Berghof, where they had a conference with Herr Hitler and Herr von Ribbentrop on Feb. 14. The Yugoslav delegates to this meeting, as well as other officials, later informed me that the German officials at the Berghof suggested the "advisability" of Yugoslavia

joining the "New Order" in Europe, but that no ultimatum had been given to Yugoslavia by Germany to sign the Tripartite Pact. My official informants were, however, emphatic in stating that in no case would German troops be permitted to cross Yugoslav territory against Greece, which was Yugoslavia's ally under the terms of the Balkan Entente (comprising Yugoslavia, Greece, Rumania and Turkey); that Germany had stated in no uncertain terms that the influence of Great Britain in Continental Europe must be destroyed; and that, primarily, British troops in Greece must be expelled. For this reason Germany wished to insure Yugoslav neutrality in the event that Germany decided to move against Greece. In return Germany guaranteed Yugoslavia's territorial integrity, a guarantee which even Mr. Cvetkovitch admitted to me had no value, as later proved to be the case.

On the evening of March 3, 1941, Prince Paul left for his country estate at Brdo, a charming medieval castle situated in Slovenia, about 30 miles south of the German border. We were told at the time that he had gone to Brdo for a rest. The Simovitch Government told me later that Prince Paul had actually not stopped at Brdo, but had continued in his private train to Berchtesgaden for a two-hour talk with Hitler. From what Prince Paul told me after his return from the north, I am led to assume, in view of Germany's subsequent invasion and dismemberment of Yugoslavia, that Herr Hitler must have threatened Prince Paul with the military annihilation of Yugoslavia in the event that he did not comply with German demands. The Prince had indicated to me the great difficulty of his position in the event that he did not collaborate with Germany. He had expressed apprehension that Germany would, in such case, divide Yugoslavia between Italy, Hungary, Bulgaria and Germany, and that Belgrade itself would be occupied within a few days. He also emphasized that German airplanes could reach Belgrade from the Rumanian border in a very short time, thereby indicating that a bombardment of the capital of Yugoslavia might be expected. In my opinion, Prince Paul's great aversity to bloodshed was mainly responsible for his submitting to Hitler's demands.

#### *Prince Paul Foresaw Russian War*

On the other hand, another factor must be considered in understanding how Hitler was able successfully to bring pressure on Prince Paul. According to statements made to me months ago by the Simovitch Government, Hitler had told Prince Paul at the Berchtesgaden interview that he would attack Russia in the summer of 1941. In fact, Prince Paul himself expressed the opinion to me on one occasion that Germany would attack the Ukraine during this year. It was generally known in Belgrade that Prince Paul was anti-Soviet, that he had never forgiven the Bolsheviks for the murder of members of his family, nor for the confiscation of his family's lands in Russia. He was related, through his mother and through his wife, Princess Olga of Greece and Denmark, to the Imperial Russian Family. Through his uncle, King Peter I of Serbia, he had had close associations with Russia during the days of the Empire. Germany's invasion of the Soviet Union serves to confirm the information that Hitler persuaded Prince Paul to ally

himself with Germany, the declared foe of Communism in Europe.

On March 27, 1941, shortly after 2.30 a m., Mr. Ray Brock, correspondent of the New York Times in Belgrade, telephoned me that a "state of siege" had been declared and that all telephone communications in the city had been cut. He had contrived, however, to reach me on one line which had not as yet been suspended. Immediately after giving me this warning, that line was broken. I dressed hurriedly, requested my chauffeur to do likewise, and set forth in the automobile for the center of the city. We were unable to proceed by the usual route as all the main arteries were blocked by tanks. By 3.30 in the morning many American newspaper correspondents had come to the Legation. They, like ourselves, were in doubt as to whether a coup d'etat had been effected or whether the Government was taking steps to prevent a move against it. Our military attache, Lieutenant Colonel Louis J. Fortier, and I then proceeded towards the War Ministry, but were stopped two blocks away by a tank and a detachment of soldiers armed with machine guns. Fortier made his identity known and asked to see the officer in command. We waited some ten minutes before a youngish officer approached and with great emotion embraced Fortier. He then drew himself to attention and said to me in a voice vibrant with feeling, "I salute you in the name of His Majesty, King Peter II, who ascended the throne of Yugoslavia at 2.20 this morning." He also informed us that General Dushan Simovitch, Chief of Aviation, had assumed the Premiership. We later ascertained that this officer was one of the leaders of the revolt against the Cvetkovitch Government.

Ours was not the only legation to be taken by surprise. One of the diplomats who attended a dinner on the previous evening at the Swedish Legation told me weeks later that the German Minister and the military attache of the German Legation had assured the other guests at midnight that all would be quiet now in view of Yugoslavia's adherence to the Tripartite Pact. The coup d'etat was so skilfully executed that only the actual participants were aware of its preparation.

#### *Yugoslavs Cheer New Government*

As soon as word of the coup d'etat was known, Yugoslav and even the old Serbian flags were displayed on almost every building. Crowds of shouting, almost delirious peasants marched through the streets singing patriotic songs and shouting, "Down with the pact" and "Better war than pact." Many of these groups carried a large photograph of young King Peter—who last week passed his 18th birthday in England—as they made demonstrations in front of all those legations which they considered friendly to the cause of freedom. There must have been six or seven demonstrations in front of our Legation, as well as in front of the British and Greek missions. The early morning crowds shouted that we should raise the American flag over our building, but I hesitated to do so until I ascertained the real meaning of the coup d'etat. When we learned that a national holiday had been declared and that all Government buildings were flagged, I gave orders to raise our flag. This action was greeted with great enthusiasm by the crowd which had massed outside the Legation,

but there is no truth in the report that the flag was torn from my hands, or that I was lifted out of my automobile and carried on the shoulders of the demonstrators.

That same afternoon I had a short conversation at the Foreign Office where I was told that the coup d'etat had been carried out with virtually no bloodshed. During the next few days, I had several conversations with Prime Minister Simovitch, as well as with Foreign Minister Nintchitch. General Simovitch, an able general, impressed me with his modesty. He said that, while he hoped to avert war, he realized the gravity of the situation and was taking steps to put the country on a defensive basis. Troops which had been stationed in Croatia and in Slovenia for political reasons were now being moved to South Serbia. Mr. Nintchitch, an elderly statesman of a conciliatory nature, clearly set forth to me the new Government's position vis-a-vis Germany: the Tripartite Pact, as signed by Yugoslavia, provided that it would come into force immediately on signature. It was, in his opinion, still in effect. The new Government would therefore honor it. There was no question of repudiation. Ratification was unnecessary in view of its terms. The question which concerned the new Government was how the pact would be applied. That question would arise if and when the German Government made a request to transport troops or war material across Yugoslavia to be used against Yugoslavia's ally, Greece.

It was evident that the German and Italian legations expected war within the next few days. Instructions had been given by them to all of their nationals in Yugoslavia to leave the country at once. On the night of March 31 families of all Italian officials in Belgrade left by a special train. On the night of April 1 the German Minister left for Berlin. Herr von Heeren, whom I had known well in Belgrade, was a pleasant gentleman of the old school. His father had been Minister of the free cities of Bremen, Hamburg and Lubeck in Paris in 1869. It was he who had received orders from Bismarck to turn over his Legation to the Prussian Minister in Paris. Undoubtedly, due to his father's humiliating experience, Heeren, as German Minister in Belgrade, felt sympathy for the Austrian and Czecho-Slovakian minister when he received from them the custody of their legations in 1938 and 1939, respectively. He was a tall, handsome, distinguished man, whose hair had grayed since the outbreak of the war and who generally was genial and smiling. On the night of his departure, however, his bearing was anything but genial—that night his face was set in an angry scowl. Contrary to his apparent belief, Yugoslavia's adherence to the Tripartite Pact had not been popular. The German Travel Bureau in Belgrade had been wrecked by stones thrown by impetuous Serbian nationalists. When his car had gone through the streets of Belgrade on the morning of March 28, after the holding of a Te Deum ceremony in the Orthodox Cathedral, he had been subjected to verbal abuse from the same crowd which greeted the cars of the ministers of friendly countries with enthusiastic applause. He had not judged correctly the temperament of the Serbian people.

### *The Last Train Leaves Gloomy City*

The exodus of the families of the German and Italian legations was a signal for the departure of the families of almost all legations. Every night during those last few days before the bombardment my wife and I said goodbye to four or five friends who were leaving suddenly, usually for Greece. On Friday, April 4, a special train left for Budapest at 3:10 p. m. This was the only train in the station and it was definitely understood that this was the last train to leave Belgrade for the outside world. As I said goodbye to George Wadsworth, who was on his way from Jerusalem to his new post as Counselor of our Embassy at Rome, I was impressed by the tenseness of feeling on that last trainful of passengers. The police let nobody except officials inside the station. Consequently, there was no waving crowd—only a quiet, solemn, uncertain body of travelers leaving Belgrade and their homes perhaps forever.

The reality of the possibility of the Government evacuating Belgrade became very apparent when the Chief of Protocol requested me on April 4 to help him ascertain the intentions of the various legations in Belgrade, whether they would remain in the capital or follow the Government. He said that the Government had decided to move first to Vrnjacka Banja, a watering place about 100 miles southeast of Belgrade. On April 5 a meeting of the diplomatic corps took place to formulate a policy in the event of evacuation. There was no unanimity as to procedure. Some ministers were leaving, others remaining. I had instructions from Washington to remain in Belgrade, and Robert B. Macatee, First Secretary of our Legation, was ordered to follow the Government. That same afternoon, April 5, I was confidentially informed that the German bombardment of Belgrade would commence the next morning at 6:30. We consequently transferred all secret documents to my residence so that they could be destroyed at once should it be necessary; removed the gasoline from the pump in our backyard; and made arrangements with the members of our staff and with the American newspaper correspondents to gather at my house in the event of trouble. There were intermittent air-raid warnings that night, together with a total blackout for more than an hour, caused by the cutting off of all electric current.

### *Planes Arrive on Palm Sunday*

On Palm Sunday morning, April 6, the aerial bombardment started at 7:10. Those of my staff who lived in Dedinje, residential section on the outskirts of Belgrade, saw the first planes circle over that part of the city, around the palace of the young King. The first bombs were dropped on King Peter's residence. Later, wave after wave of planes came over the city which was undefended except for anti-aircraft guns some eight miles away. These guns were completely ineffective against airplanes flying over the city proper. Bombs were falling in the neighborhood of our house. The building shook continuously, and after the first ten minutes of bombardment, many of our windows were shattered. We used our grand piano as an improvised air-raid shelter. Surrounding it with cushions and mattresses, eight of us lay underneath to protect ourselves from flying glass. Whenever there was a lull, Robert Hunter, of our staff, and I would proceed with the burning of confidential papers and

would duck under the piano whenever we heard the whistling of a bomb. While we were under the piano there was a violent knocking at the front door. A peasant woman, with a multicolored handkerchief tied around her head, a whip in her hand, clamored to be taken in. She said it was her first trip to Belgrade, and her last. She had lost all her worldly possessions: her horse—which had run away in fright when a bomb had exploded near our residence. She joined us under the piano, as did Leon Kay, of the United Press, who was the first of the newspaper correspondents to arrive. Soon almost all the members of our official family had arrived. We were worried, however, about a young Texan from El Paso, Metcalf by name, who had arrived in Belgrade only a few days before from our Legation in Budapest. When one of his colleagues visited his apartment, which was dangerously near one of the largest bomb craters in the city, he found a note scribbled on the door, "Am O. K. Have gone into town for my usual Sunday morning stroll." Another of our employees, Cermak, was not so fortunate. He left his house that morning and was never seen alive again. His body was not recovered until April 27.

The second bombardment commenced at about 10:30 a. m., just as the British Minister drove up to say goodbye before leaving to join the Government in Vrnjacka Banja and to entrust us with the protection of British interests. Macatee also prepared to join the Government there. His plans were interrupted by a chauffeur who refused to leave unless the safety of his possessions in Belgrade was guaranteed. Ray Brock of the New York Times came quickly to the rescue, and his offer of services as chauffeur was immediately accepted.

An American student of Serb origin, Ned Marich, was struck by flying glass during the second bombardment on his way to the Legation. His femoral artery had been severed and he had already lost a large quantity of blood. Michael Ckinigo, of the International News Service, who had had medical training, promptly applied a tourniquet and saved Marich's life.

After the first two bombardments of Belgrade that morning we decided it would be unwise for any member of the staff to remain in the center of the city. Consequently, all of us moved out to Dedinje, where Macatee, Commercial Attache and Mrs. Rankin, and Second Secretary and Mrs. Bonbright all had residences. My wife and I stayed with the Rankins until our final departure from Belgrade on May 17. Others of the staff accepted the hospitality of Macatee and the Bonbrights.

### *U. S. Diplomats Dodge a Dive Bomber*

That afternoon the Rankins and ourselves drove into town to bring out to Dedinje Miss Stella Baird of Seattle, Wash., who had been rendered homeless by the morning bombardment, and Alexis Gavrilloff, the Legation telephone operator, and his wife, who had been living on the top floor of our Legation. We also wished to salvage some of our provisions and clothing. I took Miss Baird and Mrs. Gavrilloff in my car and stopped at the Apostolic Nunciature to call on the Nuncio, dean of the diplomatic corps. Nobody answered the bell. Nobody seemed to hear the horn of the car. While waiting outside his house a terrific bombardment took place. The noise was deafening, and on this occasion the Stuka planes flew

very low. We sped in the car toward Dedinje. In front of us I noticed a Stuka diving to bomb an automobile about 200 yards ahead of us. As automobiles in motion attract the attention of bombing pilots, I stopped my car. We hurried on foot across the road into the Karageorgevitch Park where we lay face-down under a tree with our hands pressed tightly to our ears. We heard a terrific explosion, raised our eyes and saw a house about a block away crumble to the ground. After about a half hour on the grass, a Serbian who had also taken refuge there advised us that there was an air-raid shelter about 30 yards away. Even though the air-raid shelters were flimsily made, we decided to enter.

When we emerged, a half hour later, we found the spot where we had formerly been lying covered with debris. Fifty yards away a direct hit had been scored on another air-raid shelter, causing the death of approximately 150 persons. We reached Dedinje safely, but on the way noticed great damage to buildings and other property.

The bombardment recommenced on Monday, April 7, and from the Rankins' house at Dedinje we could see Belgrade in flames and smoke. That afternoon Rankin, Hunter and I drove into town. We wished to check up on the condition of the office and our residence, as well as to endeavor to find Mrs. Mabel Grouitch, a well-known American, the widow of the former Yugoslav Minister in London. Our offices were intact, but Mrs. Grouitch's apartment had been partially demolished. The porter said that she had been able to escape to Dedinje. A great many incendiary bombs had been dropped in the center of the city where there were no military objectives. Houses were burning—the heat so terrific that our faces were scorched as we drove by at 30 m.p.h. The Belgian and German Legation residences had been gutted by fire. Streets everywhere were filled with rubble and broken glass. Our Legation seemed intact as we passed the facade, but on looking through the driveway we saw that the rear of the building was a mass of ruins. In the short block on which our house was situated seven bombs had been dropped. The homes on each side of ours had been destroyed; in one, two persons had been killed. That night the city was one huge mass of flames. Fortunately, unseasonable snow fell for the next two days, preventing further air attacks and helping to extinguish the fires.

On Good Friday, April 11, three Hungarian planes dropped bombs in the center of the city, killing hundreds of persons. There was no further bombardment of Belgrade. The suffering of the city had been intense. There was no food to be had, no water, no electricity, no telephone or telegraph service, no police—chaos prevailed. Many who had been rendered homeless died from exposure. Later the German Legation estimated the number of deaths at 15,000.

Although Belgrade had been declared an open city, which should automatically preclude it from bombardment, the diplomatic corps on April 8 appealed to General Simovitch again to declare it undefended. Colonel Fortier sped by car to the General's headquarters at Pale, near Sarajevo, obtained this guarantee, which he took to the Hungarian border, whence it was taken by Outerbridge Horsey, Secretary of our Legation, to Budapest. Our Legation turned it over to the German Minister in Budapest for transmission to the Government at Berlin.

### *First Nazis Arrive in Belgrade*

Early on the morning of Saturday, April 12, the Yugoslavs blew up the three bridges across the Danube and Sava Rivers at Belgrade. The loud detonation shook even our house at Dedinje three miles away. That evening the first contingent of German troops entered Belgrade—an officer and twelve motorcyclists—who arrived by boat across the Danube from Panchievo and formally took possession of the city. On Easter Sunday morning, April 13, the German mechanized troops poured into Belgrade from the southeast. Traffic signs in German had early that morning been set up. There was no confusion—on the contrary, an overpowering efficiency. The people of Belgrade accepted the occupation with bitterness, but with resignation. Their heads were held high and except for minor cases of sniping at night, no violent resistance was made. We saw with our own eyes German troops looting shops, backing trucks to the very doors and removing all the goods; my wife saw them empty the Belgian Legation of provisions. Even the toys of the Minister's children were taken. Having been entrusted with the protection of Belgian interests, we protested, but to no avail. Thirty thousand liters of gasoline belonging to our Legation were also confiscated. We obtained no redress.

On April 16 notices, signed by the German commandant, were posted throughout the city that all Jews must report at Tas Majdan Square at 8 a. m. on April 19 (the Jewish Sabbath). The second sentence read in Serb and in German: "Those who do not report will be shot." Men and women who reported were given yellow armbands which must be worn continually. Jews were not permitted to frequent the market places before 10:30 a. m. After this hour bread and other necessities were unobtainable. They were prohibited from working for compensation, but were made to sweep streets, tear down remains of bombed buildings, and excavate bodies. Weeks later, when street-car service was resumed, each car bore the inscription: "Jews prohibited."

In general, the German military authorities were more courteous to other legations than to ours. To cite an example: In order to coordinate the activities of the American Red Cross which had been set up under the Presidency of George H. Schellens, an American citizen who had lived 18 years in Yugoslavia, it had been arranged for him and me to call on the Feldkommandant at 11 a. m. on Sunday, April 20. After waiting at his office for some 15 minutes, word was brought to me by his adjutant that in view of the uncomplimentary phrases which my President had used against the Fuhrer, the General would not be able to receive me on the Fuhrer's birthday! Naturally, I did not attempt further to interview him.

The German Legation had advised all diplomatic missions that it would be "wise" to leave Belgrade as soon as possible, but no time limit was set. Being unable to communicate with the outside world to obtain instructions, I finally decided on the advice of the Rankins, who had been through the same difficulty in occupied Belgium, to drive by automobile to Budapest. Accompanied by Miss Baird, Vice Consul and Mrs. John L. Calnan, I left at 7:30 a. m. on April 27. We crossed the Sava River at Belgrade by pontoon bridge and the Danube at Novisad by improvised ferry. All Slav names in Novisad had been changed

to the Hungarian equivalents—even the name of Novisad had been changed to Ujvidek. The trip to Budapest was uneventful. We noted that the extensive defense works which the Yugoslavs had constructed along the former Hungarian border had served no purpose. The Hungarians had pushed on unimpeded after the collapse of the Yugoslav armies and the signing of the Yugoslav armistice with Germany and Italy. Nevertheless, Hungarian troops in trucks decorated with lilacs and Hungarian flags assumed the air of conquering heroes. On arrival in Budapest that Sunday evening, I telephoned the Department of State in Washington and received verbal instructions to return to Washington as soon as possible. I also was authorized to evacuate the American colony at Belgrade by Danube River steamer to Budapest. In Budapest people were oblivious of what was really happening in Belgrade. I could not help wondering whether the people of the U. S. were likewise unaware of the striking power of the German Army and of the danger of any such laissez faire attitude as the Yugoslav Government of Cvetkovitch had maintained.

I returned to Belgrade in a few days. We made plans as rapidly as possible to leave Yugoslavia, said our goodbys and boarded the river steamer, together with some 40 members of the American colony, at 7 o'clock in the evening of May 16. Members of the German and Italian legations courteously came to the boat to say farewell. However, due to the possible existence of mines in the Danube the steamer did not sail until dawn on May 17. As all foreign diplomats were requested to leave Belgrade by the German authorities, our Legation, as such, was closed.

(Life Magazine, September 15, 1941)

## REVOLT GROWS IN SERBIA

### Hitler Forced To Put Army On "3rd Front"

Open revolt in the West Morava River Valley of Yugoslavia has forced Adolf Hitler to send three of his sorely-needed divisions into a "third front" in an effort to eliminate Serbian armed forces operating under Gen. Draza Mihailovitch.

The Yugoslav Middle East Command, which has established headquarters at Cairo, Egypt, announced in its first communique yesterday that Serb troops were making a successful resistance, although in the vicinity of Uzice "enemy air attacks have obliged one of our units to withdraw."

(The Chicago Sun, December 4, 1941)

(This article was published in the first issue of the Chicago Sun, and the title of the article was that paper's first headline.)

## MAJOR BALKAN BATTLE REPORTED

### Three Nazi Divisions Drive on Yugoslavs

CAIRO, Egypt, Dec. 3—(UP)—A new front in Europe appeared to have been opened tonight with the announcement by Yugoslav Middle East headquarters that three German divisions had launched a major offensive against Yugoslav positions in the valley of the western Morava River.

Military experts referred to the campaign as the opening of a "third front" which forced the Germans to fight again in the Balkans at a time when they were hard pressed both in Russia and Libya.

### Withdrawal Admitted

The communique said Serb troops, under Gen. Draza Mihailovitch "are resisting successfully in the face of furious onslaughts" though in the vicinity of Uzice "enemy tank attacks have obliged one of our units to withdraw."

German and Italian troops were engaged in the attack, according to the communique, and were supported by tanks and airplanes. The statement added that "partisans have carried out several successful operations in the enemy's rear."

A Belgrade dispatch via Rome earlier reported that more than 1,000 Communists were killed or captured in fighting at Uzice. Communists were said to have been in control of Uzice since September and to have executed 400 persons since then. The dispatch said the authorities were in complete control of the situation.

### First Report of Fight

The communique was the first from Yugoslav headquarters here regarding the Serbs' campaign of resistance to German occupation. Fighting that began in guerrilla fashion has steadily increased since the Russian war started.

(The Chicago Sun, December 4, 1941)

## DONOVAN IN THE BALKANS

Probably only a few people realize in this country that the United States had a share in the victory of the Russian troops over the Nazi hordes.

The German army chiefs realized that in the war against Russia the weather would have an important role, as in Napoleon's campaign 129 years ago. The Nazis originally intended to time the beginning of the German offensive against Russia at a very early date this year, probably April. However, Hitler needed to assure the "benevolent neutrality" of Yugoslavia and Greece, and demanded a right of passage via the Serbian lands.

We know that in those fateful days Col. William J. Donovan was visiting the Balkans and had the opportunity to talk with all the important personalities of the various southeastern Europe countries. It was insinuated that the Colonel made unwarranted promises to these nations but every well meaning person knows that this was not the case. In fact, I know from my Balkan friends that all that these patriotic Yugoslavs and Greeks wanted to know was whether the United States of America would be on the Allied side when peace was made. Col. Donovan could point out on the basis of speeches of the President that the United States was pledged to the destruction of the tyrannies. This was sufficient for the Yugoslav patriots, and for the Greek heroes. They knew that though their countries would be temporarily overrun by the Nazi hordes, their resurrection was certain if the United States sided with the Allies. This fact gave courage to the two small but heroic Balkan nations to defy the demands of Nazi Germany.

Their resistance had upset Hitler's time-table. The Yugoslav, Greek and Cretan resistance used up two-and-a-half months of Hitler's valuable time. Instead of April, Hitler had to start his offensive against Russia only on June 21. The dreaded Russian winter became an ally of Stalin, just as it was an ally of Czar Alexander of Russia in 1812, against Napoleon.

In the light of recent events we realize that Col. Donovan's important mission in the Balkans contributed to a considerable extent to the success of the Russian arms.

Chicago.

M. W. FODOR

(Chicago Daily News, December 23, 1941)

### **TODAY AND TOMORROW Policy of United Nations Grows Stronger**

BY WALTER LIPPMANN

During the great military actions which have extended from Cologne to Midway, we have made a diplomatic move which may have seemed perfunctory and of little practical interest. Six months after Bulgaria, Hungary and Rumania declared war upon us, we have recognized that we are at war with them. Yet our action is much more important than at first it may seem. It is important because it demonstrates that in his Memorial Day speech Mr. Welles was not making Utopian promises for the distant future but was announcing a policy which is very seriously meant.

What difference does it make whether we are or are not at war with these three states? It means primarily that not only for the war but for the period of the armistice and for the peace settlement which will follow we are now the allies of Greece and of Yugoslavia. Their enemies are now our enemies, and the words United Nations have very definite practical consequences.

#### *We'll Set Terms*

For, as the State Department has announced through the Welles speech, we intend with the other victorious nations to disarm the nations which "may threaten aggression outside of their frontiers"; we intend to police the armistice; and we mean to regard the United Nations "as the nucleus of a world organization" to determine the final terms of peace.

The declarations of war on the three small Axis satellites followed immediately after Mr. Welles had announced this American policy. Therefore Greece and Yugoslavia are now assured that their position at the armistice will be quite different from that of their neighbors who have gone with Hitler. Greece and Yugoslavia will take part in enforcing the armistice and they will belong to the original nucleus of the world organization which will write the peace. Hungary, Bulgaria and Rumania will be disarmed to the degree deemed necessary to prohibit any renewal of aggression on their part, and they will have to prove that they can be trusted in a world of free nations.

#### *Fight for Freedom*

Thus we have adopted the principle that the nations which fight our enemies are the nations we must work with from now on. We have tried the

opposite principle: we have wished to believe that if we dealt with Hitler, his dupes and his Quislings did not matter. Hitler is still obviously the great enemy in Europe. But the dupes and the Quislings are an essential part of his power, and there is an immense practical difference now and for the future between nations like the Greeks and the Yugoslavs, who have staked everything to resist him, and nations like Bulgaria, Hungary and Rumania, which work with him.

The Greeks and the Yugoslavs have fought for freedom. The others have not. Can there be any doubt that the Greeks and the Yugoslavs can, therefore, be relied upon more surely in the cause of freedom? Can there be any doubt that the others cannot be relied upon until they have proved by what they do to liberate themselves from Hitler and to purge themselves internally that they can be relied upon? Is this not sound sense? If we cannot make peace with Hitler and Mussolini, how can we make peace with their agents? . . .

(Chicago, Ill., Sun—June 9, 1942)

### **YUGOSLAVIA'S CHOICE**

(A Speech made by Leigh White in Freedom House in New York October 23, 1942)<sup>1</sup>

When the United States was attacked at Pearl Harbor, we automatically went to war. Our national honor demanded it. And the price we shall have to pay—however great in terms of dollars—will be comparatively small in terms of human sacrifice. We are a large, rich nation. We could easily afford to pay ten times as much as we shall have to in order to defend our national honor.

For some of our weaker and smaller allies, however, the price of national honor has been an urgent consideration.

China, for example, has won eternal glory by the mere fact of her resistance. For nine long years, she has been waging a struggle which everyone—except the Chinese—has at one time or another viewed as hopeless. China's honor is a far more precious possession than any of us imagined.

Greece is another ally who fought a seemingly hopeless war—hopeless, that is, to everyone but the Greeks. They have paid a terrible price in terms of devastation and human suffering. By the time this struggle is over, probably a third of the population will have died of hunger. That is the price the Greeks are willing to pay to defend their national honor.

But Greece, like China, was invaded. Her choice was simple: To resist, or to surrender to a more powerful foe. Had Greece surrendered, we would not admire her; but on the other hand, we couldn't very well blame her. It was a question of seven million people against a hundred and twenty-five million. Greece was doomed to defeat in any event. Her glory is that she chose to resist when resistance was hopeless.

<sup>1</sup> Mr. Leigh White was in Yugoslavia when the War broke out there. Since that time, he has related the historical events he witnessed, in his book, "The Long Balkan Night", Charles Scribner's Sons, New York, 1944.



The choice of our ally Yugoslavia was more complex. Yugoslavia was surrounded by the Axis and its satellites: Hungary, Rumania, and Bulgaria had already sold themselves to Hitler. Yugoslavia's only friendly neighbor was little Greece; and Greece would certainly be overrun by the Germans, despite whatever military help the British could provide.

Yugoslavia's choice was this: To come to terms with Hitler and avoid destruction; or to be true to herself and to her ally, Greece, defy Hitler, and face annihilation. Belgrade, which had been destroyed by the Germans in the first world war, would be razed to the ground a second time in twenty-five years. Famine and pestilence would follow, as surely as they had in the other war. To the Yugoslav prime minister, Dragisha Cvetkovich, and his foreign minister, Alexander Cincar-Markovich, this was a horrifying alternative. They couldn't face it. So they went to Salzburg and signed the tripartite pact, as their colleagues in Bulgaria, Rumania, and Hungary had done before them.

For Americans, Britons, Russians, courage in the face of national peril is comparatively easy. There are so many of us; our territories are so vast; our resources so great; our manpower so extensive—that war, to us, can never be the spectre it always is to our smaller allies. To Yugoslavia, the price of national honor was national suicide.

I shall always have a guilty conscience about Yugoslavia. I lost faith in the Yugoslavs a few days before Cvetkovich and Cincar-Markovich went to Salzburg. I left Belgrade and went to Athens, convinced that the Yugoslavs would never fight. I condemned the treason of the Cvetkovich government, but I thought I understood. It seemed too much to hope that any people would offer themselves up as martyrs to the cause of the United Nations.

How wrong I was! A few days after I arrived in Athens, the Yugoslav people revolted. General Dushan Simovich formed a new, anti-Nazi government. Cvetkovich, Cincar-Markovich and the other appeasers were thrown in jail. Prince Paul, the regent, who had approved the signing of the tripartite pact, was sent into exile; and young King Peter, just eighteen, was placed on the Karageorgevich throne.

I immediately returned to Belgrade and made several broadcasts before the martyred little capital was laid in ruins by the German bombings of April six, seven and eight. I shall never forget those ten days in Belgrade—those ten days between the Simovich coup d'etat and the German invasion. It was a glorious period in Yugoslavia's history. For ten days the Yugoslav people were united in the realization that they were once again defending the world against the onslaught of barbarism, just as they had done so often in the days when the Turks were the menace of western civilization.

Some of my colleagues have spoken of a children's revolution in Belgrade: how the school children wrote their own posters attacking the Germans, how they shouted down their parents and teachers who feared the consequences of the coup d'etat; how they marched through the streets, chanting: Better War Than Pact.

It wasn't only a children's revolution; it was a revolution of the Yugoslav spirit. Like most of the peoples of Europe the Yugoslavs were tired. The twenties and thirties in Europe had not been easy, not even for the successor states. Like Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia was born of a union of conflicting national

interests; given time, the conflict could have been resolved, and Yugoslavia could have been welded into a cohesive south Slav federation. But there wasn't time; and meanwhile the Germans and Italians and Hungarians and their agents had been digging away at the foundations of the infant south Slav state.

Even so, for those ten days, from March 27 to April 6, 1941, there was unity in Yugoslavia. It best expressed itself in a mass demonstration in front of the Albania building, Belgrade's only skyscraper. An old Montenegrin, in peasant costume, appeared on the Albania's second-floor balcony. Behind him was stretched the horizontal red-white-and-blue bars of the Yugoslavian national flag. And, to the great surprise of the American and British diplomats in Belgrade, the American flag and the Union Jack were stretched out on either side of Yugoslavia's banner.

That celebration on the Terazija was not a put-up job. It was a spontaneous demonstration. In what Hitler has called the "primitive simplicity of their minds", the people in Belgrade thought they were fighting for Britain and America as well as themselves. All day long they marched through the streets, overcome with their own emotion, shouting praises of Britain and America as well as their own proud traditions.

Hitler was right, but not in quite the sense he intended. The Yugoslavs are a primitive, simple people. They still retain the primitive virtues and the simple dignity which many of the more sophisticated peoples have lost. I don't know what the United Nations would have done if it had not been for the primitive simplicity of the Yugoslav peasants, the Greek peasants, the Russian peasants, the Chinese peasants—yes, and the Spanish peasants, too—all the primitive, simple people who were not too civilized to fight, who were not too civilized to die, who were not too civilized to quibble over the price of their national honor, who were not too civilized to have fought against the German and Italian aggressors even though they knew they could never win.

At one time, I wondered if Yugoslavia's national honor, if any country's honor, could possibly be worth the price the Yugoslavs so willingly paid. Like most people, I've done a lot of thinking in the last year or two. And it's taken me a year to understand what the peasants of Yugoslavia understood instinctively; That national honor has no price; that it cannot be measured in terms of any currency, even the currency of blood.

The lesson of Yugoslavia is simply this: That there are many things worse than death; that many times it is preferable to die; and that it is always preferable to die than compromise the national honor. I dare say the people of Rumania, Bulgaria, Hungary, and the other dishonored countries are beginning to learn that lesson now.

In this war, there is no such thing as surrender. But it remained for the Yugoslavs and the Greeks and the Russians to prove to us what the Chinese and the Spaniards had tried long before the second World War began.

Yugoslavia has not yet surrendered and probably never will. General Mihailovich and his primitive, simple peasants go on fighting day after day, with pitchforks and cudgels, strong enough, stubborn enough to fight against any odds.

Once, in a little town named Budva, on the Dalmatian coast, as I was preparing to escape to Greece, a peasant woman asked me: What will America and Britain do about all this? She waved her arm to indicate the devastation of her country.

I had no answer then, of course, and there can be no definite, explicit answer yet. But I think we're

coming to realize what an enormous debt we owe to Yugoslavia; and I hope we're all resolved to see that justice is done when victory is at hand. Yugoslavia committed national suicide, for us. We owe Yugoslavia her resurrection—a south Slav federation on firmer foundations, with greater bulwarks, than before.

Since the events of 1941 in Yugoslavia, five important books by eye-witnesses have appeared, which stand as testimony. These books are:

"From the Land of the Silent People," by Robert St. John, Doubleday Doran, New York, 1942.

"Nor Any Victory," by Ray Brock, Reynal & Hitchcock, New York, 1942.

"The Long Balkan Night," by Leigh White, Charles Scribner's Sons, New York, 1944.

"Suez to Singapore," by Cecil B. Brown, Random House, New York, 1942 (reprint Halcyon House, 1943).

"Flight in Winter," by John Clinton Adams, March, 1942, Princeton University Press, Princeton, N. J.











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